

AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH

SOCCER



VOL. 23 No. 1072 — TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2002

● REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIAN POST
● PUBLICATIONS No. NBQ5726

WEEKLY

\$3.60
GST INCLUSIVE

FIFA K-Os OCEANIA'S HOPES



Nahuel Arrarte (right) of Sydney United slides-in to tackle South Melbourne defender, Patrick Kisnorbo during their match at Edensor Park, Sydney, on Sunday night.

In a blow to Australia's World Cup qualifying hopes, FIFA president Joseph Blatter has reportedly assured the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) of five slots for the 2006 World Cup finals in Germany.

Blatter, who is currently in Saudi Arabia attending the Gulf Cup, however was not available for any comment on the matter.

If confirmed, the news will severely dent Australia's hopes of overcoming its extended World Cup qualifying jinx which has seen it fall at the last hurdle on the way to the finals. Since crashing out of this year's World Cup finals to Uruguay last November, expectations have been high that Oceania would be granted a direct qualification slot to the World Cup finals.

Those expectations gained momentum last month at the World Cup finals draws in Pusan, Korea when Blatter announced that an extra slot would be available when the subsequent champions are denied automatic qualification to the subsequent finals.

As the strongest member of Oceania, Australia was hoping to use the anticipated Oceania slot to finally overcome its persistent World Cup failures.

Saudi Arabian soccer president Sultan Ben Fahd reportedly revealed told a meeting



Joseph Blatter: FIFA President.

of heads of soccer associations from Middle Eastern nations that, "Blatter told me that Asia will have five places for the 2006 World Cup finals".

The 2002 World Cup finals will already feature four teams from Asia — with South Korea and Japan acting as co-hosts.

MY AGENDA FOR NSW SOCCER - DOUMANIS

By Mark Stavroulakis

New South Wales Soccer Federation is a beehive of activity as it prepares for its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 30 January when it will elect a new President and two Directors on its Board.

Led for the past 14 years by retiring President Peter Gray, the Federation has evolved into a leading light for youth and representative soccer in Australia.

Two candidates neck-in-neck to replace Gray are former Soccer Australia Chairman Tony Labbozzetta and current Director of the NSW Soccer Federation Tom Doumanis.

Labbozzetta is vying to return after a break from soccer, while Doumanis, a lawyer, is familiar in soccer circles having worked for Sydney Olympic in 1981 as Secretary, and later President.

Doumanis, a member of NSW Soccer Federation since 1988 has served in a number of capacities over the years including Chairman of General Purposes Tribunal, Appeal Boards and Director.

He is confident that experience will help him succeed Gray.

"The only agenda that I have is my total focus in furthering the interests of the NSW Federation and its stakeholders," he said.

Marketing of the state competition is an area that Doumanis wishes to promote.

"The main task in NSW is to lift the profile of all our competitions particularly the Premier League, Super League, Division 1 and the Premier Youth and Super Leagues. While the rationalisation of our Youth League competitions has seen clubs fail to make the grade at Premier League level, nevertheless the Board will do all that is possible to assist those clubs to improve and enhance their development programs to gain promotion to the highest competition", said Tom.

Another burning ambition for Doumanis is the introduction of an intermediate competition between the National Soccer League and the various State Leagues from Victoria, NSW and Queensland.

(cont. Page 9)



Tom Doumanis

NEW CANBERRA COSMOS DASHED

By Graham Cooke

Soccer Canberra has called for expressions of interest from clubs, organisations and individuals who can assist in the re-establishment of a National Soccer League team in the ACT, but president Steve Doszpot has warned against any undue optimism over a speedy replacement for the ill-fated Canberra Cosmos.

Asked by a local radio station whether he was confident Canberra would be back in the NSL next year he said "quite the opposite".

"I have no expectations, I know of no realistic proposals that are being put forward," he said. "But we have to start somewhere."

"The soccer community generally seems quite keen to have a team in the NSL once again, but that is not enough. We have to ensure that it has the support, both financial and in kind, to carry it through not just the first season, but over a number of years."

"It maybe that someone has a plan that could see us back next year, or perhaps it is a number of years down the track — or even that we have to reluctantly conclude there is not the support for an NSL team in Canberra."

Officials at the Belconnen Blue Devils NSW Premier League match with Bonnyrigg White Eagles were cautious when asked if they would be submitting expressions of interest. One said that while Belconnen's long-term vision included the NSL, the club would not be in a financial position to seek a place for "four or five years at least".

**AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH
SOCCER
WEEKLY**

Issue No. 1072
Published every Tuesday by
F.L. Press
5-13 Garners Ave.,
Marrickville NSW 2204

TELEPHONE
(editorial and general enquiries)
Tel: (02) 9562 0559
or
Tel: (02) 9562 0565

(advertising)
John Economos

Tel: (02) 9562 0559

E-MAIL
(editorial, advertising and general enquiries)
soccerweekly@hotmail.com
ABSW's new E-mail:
soccer@foreignlanguage.com.au

FACSIMILE
(editorial, advertising and general enquiries)
(02) 9550 9332 or (02) 9564 1224

MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. Box 155 Marrickville NSW 1475

SUBSCRIPTIONS
Sylvia Marinos
Phone: (02) 9562 0575
Australia: \$195 (GST incl.)
Overseas: \$255 (GST incl.)

PRODUCTION EDITOR
Emma Nwaneri

CHIEF WRITER
John Economos

STAFF WRITER
Arvind Hickman

LAYOUT/TYPESSETTING
Mary Quartly, Alamita Vea

CORRESPONDENTS
Bert van Bedaf (Victoria Editor)
Alan Clarke (Melbourne)
Allan Crisp (Adelaide)
Glenn Davis (Brisbane)
Otto Bader (Wollongong)
Richard Kreider (Perth)
Graham Cooke (Canberra)
Joe Russo (Sydney)
Roy Hay (Victoria)
Mark Stavroulakis (Sydney)
SCANNING
Bill Hawthorne, Alex Siafakos
FILM PLANNING
Nick Philips
PHOTOGRAPHY
Allsport

DISTRIBUTION
NSW/ACT:
FLP Pty Ltd. 5-13 Garners Ave,
Marrickville NSW 2204
Tel: (02) 9562 0500

VICTORIA:
FLP Pty Ltd. 72-78 Gipps Street,
Collingwood Vic 3066
Tel: (03) 9486 9522
Tel: (03) 9486 9858

QUEENSLAND:
Queensland Newspapers
Campbell St, Bowden Hills Qld. 4006
Tel: (07) 3252 6011

SOUTH AUSTRALIA:
Advertiser Newspapers Ltd.
Waymouth St, Adelaide SA 5000
Tel: (08) 8218 9329

WESTERN AUSTRALIA:
Pan Hellenic Emporium,
67 James Street, Perth WA 6000
Tel: (08) 9328-4779
Recommended and maximum price.
\$3.60

*All material appearing in
Australian and British Soccer Weekly is
copyright and reproduction in any form
whatsoever is expressly forbidden without
the written permission of the publisher.
The publisher accepts no responsibility for
unsolicited manuscripts, illustrations or
photographic material.

**Deadline for contributions, articles
and advertising is 3 days PRIOR to
issue date.**

'Mennillo, secret behind Wolves' surge of strength'

Wollongong Wolves' head coach Ron Corry last week revealed that the presence of returnee-midfielder, Dino Mennillo was the catalyst behind the club's inspired form in the NSL.

He told the Illawarra Mercury last week, "The attitude with which he (Mennillo) plays the game with is great. "He is like a little boy with a new toy since he came back to us. His enthusiasm is infectious to the other players. You can see it on the park."

Mennillo, a key member of the 2000 Grand Final-winning squad, returned to the Wolves in November after a fruitless bid to play for clubsides in the English first division. His attempts to actualise his dreams in England were thwarted by various managerial changes, and out of despair, he headed off to Greece to link up with ex-Wolves coach, Nick Theodorakopoulos at little-known Kalitheia.

The Kalitheia dream was again short-lived after a couple of months there, forcing Mennillo to retrace his footsteps back to the Wolves.

Since returning to the fold, the

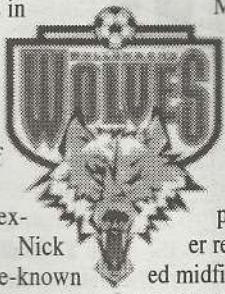
Wolves have suddenly rediscovered their form of old, posting crucial wins and climbing amazingly to the 9th spot on the table - just three places away from the top six.

Corry believes Mennillo's presence, especially at a time when the club is undergoing some transition of sorts with a welter of young, less-experienced players, is crucial. "He is doing everything he can, he can't be any more effective than what he has been."

After losing such long-term reliables and household names such as Matt Horsley, Scott Chipperfield, Daniel Beltrame, Sasho Petrovski and Robert Middleby all at a go, the Wolves have suddenly found life tough in a league which they dominated convincingly for the past two seasons.

Already, the club is again preparing for the loss of another reliable hand - this time talented midfielder Paul Reid - to English Premiership side Bolton Wanderers.

Reid is expected to move to Bolton in the coming weeks for a yet-undisclosed fee and Corry said he hoped to make up for his departure by converting fullback Alvin Ceccoli into a make-shift midfielder.



Paul Reid: Leaving for England.



Dino Mennillo (left): "He is like a little boy with a new toy."

Canberra Cosmos probe gathers pace

By Graham Cooke

The Soccer Canberra-initiated inquiry into what went wrong with Canberra Cosmos has drawn up a list of 25 key individuals it wants to interview in order to gather information about the stricken club.

"Chairman Chris Behrens said the four-person inquiry had already received half-a-dozen submissions at the start of its task. We hope to complete the gathering of evidence by February 15 and report to Soccer Canberra sometime in March," he said.

"I want to stress that this is not a finger-pointing exercise, but before we

close the chapter on the Cosmos we want to speak to the individuals most concerned and see what lessons can be learned and documented.

"Then, if there is a time in the future when Canberra has another NSL team, there will at least be a document which sets out the problems and pitfalls."

Behrens said there were three main areas to be addressed:

"*The club's persistent lack of success in their off-field management, despite the fact that at times during their history there were sig-

nificant injections of capital.

"*The best set-up for an NSL club in Canberra, including the size of the board, the role of the chief executive officer (a continual

problem with the Cosmos), and the question of ultimate ownership.

"*The relationship of Soccer Canberra with a future club. Whether they should be a major sponsor (as they were with the Cosmos), or simply have a seat

on the board, or have nothing to do with the venture.

"Behrens said that lack of finance appeared to be at the root of all the club's ills. "Every year the Cosmos made a major trading loss, sometimes as much as \$500,000, and it is impossible to run a commercial operation under those circumstances," he said.

"It meant that one year's sponsorship immediately went to pay off last year's debts, then there would be a financial crunch and some money would be found, or an arrangement would be made with creditors and the club would stagger on.

"The problems probably go back to the first season when the Cosmos entered the NSL in an under-capitalised position."

"The inquiry consists of Behrens, a lawyer with the firm of Mallesons Stephen Jaques, Duesburys accountant David Earle, the regional manager of the Zurich Insurance Group, Adrian Dodd and Australian Institute of Sport head coach Steve O'Connor.



Marconi's guests, Colo Colo in financial mess

By Emma Nwaneri

While its U/23 squad are about to embark on busy playing tour of Australia, Chile's most-popular soccer club Colo Colo, were declared bankrupt last week.

A judge ruled in favour of a financial company that had asked for bankruptcy because Colo Colo could not pay it back part of a \$400,000 debt, a club director told reporters.

Colo Colo, the only Chilean club ever to win a major international competition, have been beset by financial troubles recently. The planned trip to Australia by the U/23s now look in doubt with the latest developments back home.

The Chileans were initially billed to arrive Sydney on Monday,

4th February and would have filed-out against Marconi Stallions' on Saturday, 9th February.

Last week, just hours before the ruling, ground and administrative staff temporarily took over Colo Colo's Monumental stadium to demand payment of wages.

Named after a Mapuche Indian chieftain who fought Spanish colonisers in the 16th century, Colo Colo have won 23 Chilean league championships, more than any other club. They last won the league in 1998.

They won the famous South American club championships - the Libertadores Cup - in 1991 to make them the first and only Chilean side to achieve the feat.

Colo Colo, who have debts of some \$30 million, are reportedly planning an appeal against the ruling.



Marconi, Bravehearts in Sydney derby

Marconi on Saturday night take on fellow town rivals Sydney United in a classic Sydney derby at Marconi Stadium.

The Stallions are looking to bounce back to finals form and claw their way back into the top six, after dropping three valuable points on the always tricky Auckland

Kingz fixture.

The one-nil result across the Trans-Tasman sea really hurt Stallions coach Lee Sterrey, who is hoping for a change of luck this week against United.

Stallions striker John Maisano will be looking to further his four-goal tally this year and will provide the home-side with some much

needed strike power. Angelo Costanzo and Dominic Longo will also be called upon greatly this week, the pairs good understanding in the backline for the Stallions will be a key factor in this week's important clash.

One man in particular, who was the hero in last week's unfortunate loss to the Kingz was Marconi custodian Michael Turnbull. The former AIS graduate was in fine form thwarting most of the Kingz attack last week, and was called upon many times in making vital saves during the match.



John Maisano

Cross-town rivals Sydney United had mixed fortunes last week after their two-all draw with South Melbourne. Branko Culina's side led twice in a match that saw South Melbourne hero Con Boutisianis grab the headlines after his two goals sent the Melbourne side home with a valuable point.

It's back to the drawing board as they saw for Culina, who can reflect on what could have been a good season, however, will have the chance to showcase some quality youngsters in their remaining fixtures.

Apart from the always tough and never say die attitude of Bilokapic, recent new recruit Gabriel 'Chi Chi'

Mendez was in fine form last week and will prove to be the key for United. The little master's deft touches were impeccable last week and will no doubt provide more quality service to current United top striker Ante Milicic, who is currently on eight goals.

Both sides in past years have provided explosive

derby clashes, and even though United have little to play for, they will do all they can in trying to ruin Marconi's run home to the finals.

Lee Sterrey's side sit two points adrift of the top six and will be looking to gain some ground back on the front runners of the National League.

Look out also for the clash of the youngsters, the Stallions exciting 18-year-old Alex Brosque and United's new maestro Christian Cevenini.

Match proceedings will kick off at 4.30pm with the youth match before the main game starting at 7pm.

MOSMAN SOCCER CLUB PLAYERS WANTED

Players wanted for our Premier League team and all grades including social teams.

**Training is on
Tuesdays and Thursdays
at 6:30pm
at Georges Heights, Mosman.**

**We are also looking for players
for our new women's team.**

Call Tony Calbourn on
9518-6261
or email: carbootsale@hotmail.com"

For Premier League,
enquiries call Coach John K on
0411 175 559



STANMORE HAWKS

**Trials — Super League U/19 & U/21
Trials — Youth Div. 1 U/13, U/14, U/15**

**SUPER LEAGUE
U/19 — U/21**

**TUESDAYS
29/1, 5/2, 12/2
THURSDAYS
31/1, 7/2, 14/2**

U/19 CONTACT

Mavros 9560 8999 • 0417 653 979

U/21 CONTACT

Tony 0413 762 139

**YOUTH DIV. 1
U/13, U/14, U/15**

**MONDAYS
28/1, 4/2, 11/2
WEDNESDAYS
30/1, 6/2, 13/2**

CONTACT Savva 0412 327 005

**ALL TRIALS WILL BE HELD AT MAHONY
PARK, ILLAWARRA RD,
MARRICKVILLE
AT 6.30PM SHARP**

Putney Rangers SOCCER CLUB

*Invite applications for a
COACH / PLAYER-COACH.*

for the

MEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE

*This is a paid position and applicants should
possess broad soccer knowledge and
experience.*

Enquiries can be made to:

**Rob Palmer 0418 445 156
Tony Latham 0413 001 251**

*Registration days will be held for
Premier League, All Age Men's,
Women's & Junior Teams on*

**Sunday 3rd & 10th February
from 2-4pm at**

**Bremner Park,
Morrison Rd, Gladesville**

MARCONI STALLIONS VS SYDNEY UNITED

Saturday 2 February
Main game kick off 7pm
Youth League Kick off 4.30pm

at Marconi Stadium

Match Day Sponsor & Major Sponsor
Brescia Furniture
Call 9823 2222 for more info

Gentle-giant Gray quits NSW for 'something new'

By Mark Stavroulakis

For 11 solid years, Peter Gray has been the face of NSW Soccer. The 'Gentle Giant' has seen many changes through his time as President of the NSW Soccer Federation, and has had many wonderful stories to tell.

Sadly, this week marks the end of Gray's reign over the NSW Soccer world, deciding to call it a day at the NSW office.

"After 11 years I thought it was time to start something new. Everyone knows I'm retiring from the NSW Soccer Federation, but that does not mean I've retired from soccer full stop. The game itself is too hard to get away from," said Gray.

Being President of any organization means a great deal to any person involved in that position. Gray showed a lot of passion and dedication for the game and will always have these wonderful years spent at NSW in his heart.

"The tag of being President of NSW Soccer Federation meant a lot to me in more ways than one. I had the job of making sure the ship was sailing smoothly, and that there were hardly any hiccups. Sure we had a few issues, but most importantly, during my time, people saw that the NSW Federation was on the way up.

I think through time, NSW gained the reputation as being the state to beat. The main people that made all this possible were the likes of Charlie Valentine, Johnny Thompson and many more gentleman who first sought interest in the valuable land up at Parklea. It was these men that first invested in the 65-acre land, and through time, we built upon that and made Parklea Soccer Headquarters one of the most-equipped sports centers in the Southern Hemisphere," said the former President.

Through his eleven seasons as President, Gray had many highlights that no doubt will cherish for the rest of his life.

"After spending that many years in one place, the highlights keep rolling in as they say. I think being President of the NSW Federation was a

highlight in itself, as I met many brilliant people through it and no doubt will have as friends, forever.

Another huge highlight was representing Australian Soccer as a tour leader over 100 times. This meant that I traveled with the likes of the U17, U20, Olympic and Socceroo squads to all parts of the world. Representing Australia at a world event like the '96 Atlanta Olympic games was priceless.

My other highlights also included the introduction of the summer and winter Super Leagues in NSW. Through my years, we've always had a strong board that spearheaded many aims in progressing the game of soccer in NSW. Apart from establishing the men's leagues, creating the Youth and Cadet leagues was also a brilliant achievement. The future of Australian soccer is our youth, and I know that NSW has done all that they could, in providing our new up-and-coming players, with the best possible support. This is through the use of our Institute, Zone and Corever programs," said Peter.

With elections only a day away, many people are anxious to see who will be the next NSW President. The two candidates vying for the spot are current director of the NSW Soccer Federation, Tom Doumanis, and former Soccer Australia boss Tony Labbozzetta.

Gray believes that both men are capable of doing the job, but realizes the winner at the end of the day, must be the progression of soccer in NSW. "I know both men really well and I think it will be a good contest come tomorrow night. In my opinion I have always said that the new President must be someone who has been in the recent NSW board.

It's only logical to have someone that knows the ideas and plans for the future at NSW, rather than a new person coming through and changing the already processed ideas. I think if elected, Tom would do a great job, as his experience in the board is outstanding. I have also total respect for Tony and have always respected his career at Marconi and being Chairman of Soccer Australia.

I think at the end of the day, no matter the result, both these men should not

leave the game, as we need people like Tom and Tony to battle for the soccer code in this country," said Gray.

The new President will have his work cut out once-elected, but will also have the huge responsibility in picking up where Gray left off. Gray believes that there are still some key issues that must be addressed in order for the game to run smoothly.

"I still think that we can improve our top competitions in getting the standard bigger and better. More crowds to these matches in NSW is also another task the new President must cover, alongside trying to make the clubs more profitable for their own benefits.

There is no secret that the Federation itself is financially-stable to help clubs with anything they need, but a few more dollars from gate-takings will be an added bonus. More interstate soccer matches must also be introduced, as it will attract many more people to the games.

Keeping a close eye on the youth is also important, as these youngsters will be our future Australian soccer players. I believe that the Waratah Cup is on the way

back next year. This will be a plus to all teams across NSW.

Spreading the soccer gospel to everyone is what needs to be established firmly, especially in the country towns, to further gain the support of more followers to the game," said the ex-goal-keeper.

There has been one ambition that Gray hopes will finally come into place soon and that is the unification between the NSW Soccer Federation and the Amateur Associations.

"I think unifying together as one will make it an untouchable force and will further develop soccer in this state. Having a 10-man board, five from each side, will boost soccer in NSW in more ways than one. The merger would in total bring at least 160,000 registered people into the game, something which would surely put soccer on the map," said the Port Hacking life member.

Unification is the key plan, Gray believes, and will be the only ingredient to Soccer Australia's survival amongst other sporting codes in the country.

"I think if Soccer



Peter Gray: "I'm not at that age to fully retire yet."

Australia decides to merge with every other federation, the game will increase immensely. Imagine 400,000 soccer registered players under one big federation, it'll surely solve Soccer Australia's burden and will scare many other sport codes in the country. We must rid of all internal politics that are happening at the moment and join as one, so maybe, just maybe, the sleeping giant of Australian soccer will awaken," said Gray.

The 59-year-old plans to settle up on the Gold Coast with his supportive wife

Denise, and will also sport a new career.

"I'm not at that age to fully retire yet and I still need to make a living for me and my wife, my main aim is to start up some coaching clinics up at the Gold Coast. Having people such as Eddie Thompson, Les Schienflug and Raul Blanco running the clinics will surely get the people's attention, in sending their kids to these top-notch sessions," said an ambitious Gray.

Sadly, there is only one day until Peter Gray finally hangs up his tie at the

Federation, and no doubt will be missed by many who have had the pleasure in working with him.

"Come end of next week and I will surely feel it without a doubt. It will be emotional for me to leave as I've had so many great times and met so many great people, but I think its time for someone new to come through. It's time for someone else to steer the ship onto their own course, through their own style, in running the federation in the best possible way," ended Gray.

PETTY GIVES UP ON BRITISH CLUB

Swansea City owner, Queenslander Tony Petty revealed last week that the British soccer club was struggling to survive and was "very close now to the end of the road".

City had to rely on a loan from the British Professional Footballers' Association to pay players' wages before Christmas and Petty envisages an equally difficult time in finding the funds this month.

The club cannot sign any new players after a transfer embargo was imposed by the Football League last month, and there was further bad news on Tuesday when a takeover bid led by Mel Griffin and Jim Moore fell through.

Petty said: "Things are very, very black. We are very close now to the end of the road. There comes a point in any business where you have to say that, legally speaking, we're insolvent."

Petty looks set to make a complete U-turn and sell the club to former director Mel Nurse.

The club was due to change hands at the weekend, but the Hull-based consortium led by Griffin withdrew from negotiations.

In a press conference at the ground last week, Petty admitted that he was in talks with Nurse's consortium — just a few days after slamming the former Swansea player for 'jumping on the bandwagon'.

"Obviously the local consortium (led by

Nurse) is still interested and are talking, and one thing we all agree on is that we want this club to survive," Petty added.

"We'll try and do our best to ensure that happens."

Nurse took Petty to court after taking legal action against the Australian-based businessman



Tony Petty

over unpaid debts.

Petty said at the time: "The only thing Mel's legal action achieved was to suck any money the club had straight out of the door."

But following the collapse of the Griffin consortium, Petty seems to have been persuaded to sell to the interested local parties.

At the press conference, Petty denied that the weekend's deal has fallen through because he asked for more money.

"That's just rubbish," he said.

Petty has been the target of supporters' fury since he took control of the club three-and-a-half months ago.

He controversially attempted to sack players and tried to reduce wages to cut costs, both moves earning the wrath of the PFA.

The PFA are also owed money for loans paid to cover wages over Christmas.

Former Swansea chairman Steve Hamer said he was pleased that the Petty-Griffin deal had fallen through.

"I think it would have been going from the frying pan into the fire," he said.

"For the last 16 months Swansea City has been rudderless. If Nurse's consortium takes over then at least it will be local people who have a passion and a love for the club."

BACK TO THE FUTURE FOR STATE COACHING

The NSW Soccer Federation has recently embarked on an ambitious project to further raise the stakes in its bid to maintain coaching and development prominence within both the State and the Nation, and clearly set the future direction for elite player development for the next decade and beyond.

In a complete revamp of both player and coach development the Federation has introduced the Elite Soccer Player (ESP) Program to provide the State's talented athletes and their coaches with the distinct opportunity to be involved with leading edge technical development of the sport at club level.

The ESP Program will be open to all clubs competing in the 2002 Youth League competitions, and it is anticipated that improved results, especially for feeder programs to State and National teams, will be achieved by a more positive profile that the encouragement of participation in the program will generate.

In line with these new directions that the Federation is taking in direct response to the unprecedented growth of the sport, expressions of interest have now been called from individuals who are keen to be a part of State coaching development

and contribute to the 'world game'.

Their assistance will be sought to further raise the profile that this State enjoys both Nationally and overseas, and in doing so establish new parameters to ensure that the future of the sport continues to be led, as always, by the New South Wales Soccer Federation.

For information about the ESP program or any of the coaching / management positions currently on offer, clubs, coaches or players should contact the NSW Soccer Federation on 9629 1800, or visit the Federation's website www.soccernsw.com.au.



STATE COACHING POSITIONS

The New South Wales Soccer Federation invites written applications to fill the following State Coaching and Management Positions



MEN'S SOCCER PROGRAM – HEAD COACH – (Full Time)



The NSW Institute of Sport is looking for a coach to co-ordinate and implement its men's soccer program, which is part of the National NTC program. The successful candidate will work closely with the National Youth coach to prepare and co-ordinate the annual training programs, individual and squad training sessions and sports science services.

Experience in the following areas is essential

- * Extensive experience in planning and delivery of full time training and competition program for elite youth players at State and National level
- * A high level of understanding of Sports Science and its utilization in program development
- * The implementation of speed, agility and proprioception into the players program
- * Extensive knowledge and understanding of the sports code video analysis system and its practical application.
- * Utilisation of support staff in areas of Sports Psychology and Career planning
- * Development and management of annual budget
- * Must have experience coaching at National Youth League level
- * A minimum level III NCAS Coaching accreditation.

Desirable

- * Tertiary qualifications in Sport or Education
- * Additional experience in International Competition ideally with Junior National Teams

The Coaching contract is with the NSW Institute of Sport and is for a 12 months period with renewal subject to performance and funding.

For further information, contact Anita Keelan 02 97630246

Packages available from Tina Demetriou 97630231

Applications close on Friday 15 February 2002

STATE COACHING AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER – (Full Time)*

The New South Wales Soccer Federation requires the services of a dedicated professional to manage all Coaching and Development programs within the State. The position will be responsible for the preparation, implementation and management of State policies and programs for the development of coaches and players at all levels of ability.

Experience in the following areas is essential

- * Organisation and management of internal and external coaching and development programs.
- * Preparation and administration of approved budgets to include talented athlete programs.
- * Supervision of both coaching and non-coaching staff as well as contractors providing soccer specific services.
- * Co-ordination of submissions and reports, and effective liaison with the State Department of Sport and Recreation, State Institute of Sport, Soccer Australia and other State Federations.
- * The implementation of programs within the State that promote and develop school soccer.
- * Extensive knowledge of current trends in technical development and related sports training methods.
- * Presentation and assessment of Coaching Educational Programs in conjunction with the National Coaching Scheme.
- * A minimum Senior Coaching Licence accreditation.

Desirable

- * Additional experience with elite player development for both males and females to include Representative Teams selection and management.
- * A comprehensive and practical understanding of specialist coaching resources and literature.
- * Supplementary qualifications in Sport or Education.

The position is offered by way of a two (2) year contract.

For further information contact Robert Waddell – Chief Executive Officer NSW Soccer Federation on (02) 9629 1800.

A complete job description is available on the NSW Soccer Federation's website www.soccernsw.com.au, or by contacting Linda Whitton on 9629 1800.

Applications close on Friday 15 February 2002

YOUTH TEAMS 2002*

For More Details contact the New South Wales Soccer Federation on 9629 1800 or visit our website www.soccernsw.com.au

STATE COACHES 3 POSITIONS U14, U15, U16

ASSIST STATE COACHES 3 POSITIONS U14, U15, U16

STATE MANAGERS 3 POSITIONS U14, U15, U16

APPLICATIONS CLOSE: Friday 15 February 2002

All positions are offered for male Youth Teams participating in the 2002 Talent Identification Program (minimum requirement Senior Licence).

Applicants must include details of junior/youth development experience, qualifications and personal references. A demonstrated commitment to the Coaching Code of Conduct is essential for any of these positions, and involvement with the Federation's ESP Program would be highly regarded.

*Written Applications should be clearly marked 'Confidential' and forwarded to Mr Robert Waddell CEO New South Wales Soccer Federation • PO Box 6146 Baulkham Hills BC 2153

National Soccer League

Parramatta Power 2 Newcastle United 0

By Pano Tagaroulis

An altered Newcastle lineup took the field against Parramatta Power, Saturday evening at Parramatta Stadium.

Joey Schirripa made way for Michael Prentice, and Daniel McBreen made his first start since the beginning of the season in place of Esala Masi.

Former Newcastle player John Buonavoglia was relegated to the bench in favour of former Blacktown junior, Adam Kwasnik, and Lubo Lapsansky was left out of the squad for Matt Thompson.

Prior to the kick-off, a well-worn Parramatta pitch went through close scrutiny by the match officials as some areas, particularly towards the scoreboard end, looked more like a patch-work quilt.

The early exchanges were rather dull, with sporadic moments of skill from Mitchell Johnson and Joel Griffiths for United, and some positive running from Steve Eagleton and Wayne O'Sullivan for the Power. Both teams started with three at the back and seemed to deny each other space in midfield.

We had to wait until the 21st minute for the first shot of the game – a tame effort from 30 metres by Matt Thompson. Soon after a neat interchange on the edge of the Newcastle box, involving youngster Kwasnik, led to nothing.

In the 26th minute, a run by Joel Griffiths was picked out by Mitchell Johnson, who in turn twisted in the area to deliver a cross that found Daniel McBreen free at the far post. The referee blew for a foul by Travis Dodd.

During this period Parramatta began to assert themselves, particularly with some enterprising play from O'Sullivan. On one occasion he was nearly played through by Kwasnik, and in the ensuing corner, he got on the end of an Orlic flick-on, to volley a shot that was blocked by the defending pack.

The game continued to be a struggle in the middle of the park, with both teams losing possession consistently. Nevertheless, the closing minutes of the first half saw both teams make incursions. In the 43rd minute McBreen played.

Griffiths in who returned to Dodd for a dangerous cross to the far post. In the next minute, Parramatta gained possession in Newcastle's half and Elrich crossed to the far post for Beltrame to gather in.

In the last minute of the half, a cross was met at the far post by McBreen, who headed low to the keeper's left. The ball rebounded back to him and he



David Barrett: Opened scoring for Parramatta in the first half.

shot low only for it to be cleared off the line by the Parramatta defence.

In the 49th minute the ball was played forward to Zlatko Arambasic who laid off skillfully to Adam Kwasnik. The youngster was clean through in the Newcastle area, but shot tamely into the keeper from 8 metres.

Then, in the 57th minute, a Mark Wilson handball saw Parramatta get a free kick to the left of Newcastle's area. Peter Bennett curled the ball into the box where David Barrett met the ball with a glancing header that floated into the far post, giving Parramatta a 1-0 lead.

Soon after, Steve Eagleton laid a ball to the edge of the area for Kwasnik to shoot well over the bar.

Parramatta coach, Dave Mitchell made a substitution, bringing young Brett Holman on for Zlatko Arambasic in the 59th minute.

Newcastle counter-punched, with a Travis Dodd run winning a corner. The corner was met by a McBreen header that was saved. The rebound fell to Griffiths whose shot was cleared from the line.

In the next play, Kwasnik broke clear but Beltrame saved at his feet.

In the 66th minute, Peter Bennett took a direct free kick from 30 metres that was tipped over by Pogliacomi. From the resulting corner, a dynamic Nick Orlic header, led to spectacular point-blank save by Beltrame.

A 71st minute Newcastle substitution saw Ian Crook attempting to introduce an extra front runner taking off midfielder Mitchell Johnson and bringing on Esala Masi.

This was followed by a David Mitchell decision to replace debutant Adam Kwasnik for ex-Newcastle favourite John Buonavoglia.

In the 74th minute, Travis Dodd cut inside and played a through ball for Joel Griffiths whose shot-on-the-turn was saved by Pogliacomi.

The game seemed to be stagnating and, in the 79th minute, a double substitution was affected by Newcastle with Antony Surjan coming on for Mark Wilson and Peter Tsekenis for Scott Baillie.

In the 83rd minute, Brett Holman received a long ball outside the Newcastle area and was allowed to turn. He then unleashed a powerful drive from 25m which Beltrame got a hand to but could not stop from crossing the line.

Parramatta began to wind the game down and, in the 90th minute, Michael Brown came on for Matt Thompson.

The game ended in a deserved 2-0 victory for Parramatta. Both coaches agreed the game was balanced at half time and felt the Power dominated proceedings in the second half. Both coaches seemed pleased with their debutants.

David Mitchell was pleased with Adam Kwasnik's contribution and Brett Holman's impact off the bench.

Ian Crook praised Michael Prentice's debut and commented on Mitchell Johnson's contribution thus far.



Paul Urlovic: Grabbed the winner for the Kingz.

Football Kingz 1 Marconi Stallions 0

The Football Kingz gave one of their best performances of the season and recorded a well-deserved 1-0 victory over Marconi at North Harbour Stadium last Friday night.

The Kingz' defence was rock solid with Robbie Hooker outstanding, while up front with more luck, the Kingz could have added a few more goals, rather than the Paul Urlovic strike in the 40th minute.

The home side were determined right from the first whistle, and it showed through out the first half with many bone crunching tackles by the Kiwi side.

The Stallions had a top chance to take the lead

through Chad Gibson midway through the opening half. Gibson's shot was saved brilliantly by Kingz keeper Michael Theoklitos, who unfortunately was substituted due to a recurrence of a hip injury.

His replacement, James Bannatyne, was soon in action as Marconi started to find space and added pressure to the home-side.

Marconi's best chance of the match fell in the 35th minute when Brendon Renaud hit a thunderous shot that rocked the post before bouncing clear to safety.

Paul Urlovic took total control of the match with an awesome display of skill and speed. The Kingz strik-

er was unlucky not to have earned his side a penalty from referee Peter Green when he appeared to have been illegally impeded by a couple of Stallion defenders.

Urlovic's luck finally paid off in the 40th minute as the Kingz star opened the night's account with a well-taken goal. George Goutzioulis had split the defence with a long pass and Urlovic collected at speed and coolly slotted the ball beyond Stallion keeper Michael Turnbull.

Andy Vlahos almost added another with only seconds before the break, from a well-struck free-kick from the edge of the penalty area.

The Kingz began the second half as they had the first, pressuring Marconi on every occasion, especially in midfield.

In the 64th minute, Andy Vlahos once again sprinted the Stallions defence and gave a great ball to George Goutzioulis, who blasted the ball over the bar.

The action started to pile on right at the conclusion of the match, and in the 85th minute, youngster Campbell Banks could have made it two for the Kiwi side. The Kingz star had only the keeper to beat, but his shot hit the upright where Turnbull was able to gather.

He had another golden chance three minutes later when he met a Vlahos cross on the volley but hit the bar for the second time with the goalkeeper beaten.

It was only the second victory since Kevin Fallon took over as coach and the win gave the Kingz a glimmer of hope of moving off the foot of the ladder.

For the Stallions, it was back to the drawing board, as Lee Sterry side's sixth loss of the season could prove costly come end of the season.

Northern Spirit 1 Adelaide Force 0

By Mark Stavroulakis

Northern Spirit continued its new found resurgence to the top with a hard fought 1-0 win over the Adelaide Force at North Sydney Oval last Friday night.

In a match that had very few chances, it was the Spirit who dominated the first half, but during the second was completely outplayed by the Adelaide side. The only goal of the match arrived in the 30th minute through defender and former Luton Town star, Julian Watts.

Spirit had won a corner where John Hutchinson's cross was punched by Force cus-

todan Daniel Godley, only as far as Simon Bell. The Cameroon international brought it down well and fed the ball to Watts, who took an instant shot that ricocheted off Force defender Ante Kovacevic's foot to chip the keeper for the goal.

Soon after Spirit's first, a bombardment of attacks were seen by the home-side with Scotty Thomas going close on two occasions, though both headers hardly troubled Godley.

It was all Spirit in the first half, as Zoran Matic's men lost far too much possession to trouble the home side in the opening half.

The wheel turned in the second half and it was the Force who went out more determined to take the match. Former Spirit star Alex Moreira had two brilliant chances to equalize for the Force. The first was a chipped shot that



Adelaide's enterprising midfielder, Carl Veart (left) escapes the attentions of Northern Spirit defender, Scott Thomas.

went high over Paul Henderson's post, while the second chance was a fierce shot saved by Henderson.

Adelaide's enterprising midfielder, Carl Veart (left) escapes the attentions of Northern Spirit defender, Scott Thomas.

The Force were given far too much space in the midfield with Aurelio Vidmar and Carl Veart exploiting the Spirit side with some brilliant service to the front men.

Young substitute Mario Karlovic had the best chance to level the match with ten minutes to go. Matthew Kemp's quality pass went straight to an unmarked Karlovic inside the box, who mis-

cued his header over the bar.

Spirit had goalkeeper Paul Henderson to thank as he kept his side in the match with

some quality saves, especially in the second half.

It looked as though the home side had run out of engines with the Force applying a lot of pressure, however, the Force could not grab that elusive goal to bring them back into the match. Aurelio Vidmar had a dubious penalty claim that was turned down by referee Mark Shield, but overall the three valuable-points went to the Spirit.

The rock solid defence of goal scorer Watts, Simon Bell and Michael Cartwright and the tireless efforts of flank man Scotty Thomas kept the Spirit going in the second half. Spirit's main man was Noel Spencer as the no-nonsense midfielder took control of the midfield and supplied some great service to his teammates.

The Force had veterans Carl Veart and Aurelio Vidmar as their best alongside striker Alex Moreira, who tried endlessly in pursuing for that vital equalizing goal that wasn't to be.

The win was the Spirit's second consecutive win at home and furthered their chance or progressing higher on the National League ladder.

National Soccer League

Sydney United South Melbourne

2
2

By Arvind Hickman

Con Boutsianis again came to the rescue of South Melbourne, scoring a late equaliser in a 2-2 draw at the Sydney United Sports Centre last Sunday night.

The attacking maestro was all class, netting both of South's goals including a 20m free-kick in the final minute of the game.

The draw keeps the Melbourne team a point adrift of United, both placed 10th and 12th respectively.

Amazingly, Boutsianis is the leading goalscorer for South in only his third game this season.

His quality never lost on Coach Eddie Krencevic. "Con's got that extra bit of class. It was a great free kick," he said.

Sydney United opened the scoring in the 60th minute through a Paul Bilokapic header from

Gabriel Mendez's well-calculated corner.

South hit back only six minutes later when Boutsianis propped up to steal a goal his team-mates couldn't finish.

United again surged ahead when Mendez played another pin point corner for Ante Deur to gently angle past the stranded Michael Petkovic.

However Boutsianis stole the show in the final minute, rocketing a free kick past Wilson Knezevic, and confining United to another home draw.

Boutsianis has certainly added another dimension to the South Melbourne attack since returning three weeks ago.

South Melbourne will find out on Thursday if they are to lose the three points gained from last week's game against the Kingz FC when they used Boutsianis after allegedly agreeing not to play him in their transfer deal.



Gordan Talevski (left) of United in action against South Melbourne at Edensor Park, Sydney.

Perth Glory Wollongong Wolves

By Richard Kreider

It might have been Australia Day the day before, but the fireworks continued in an emotion-charged encounter at Perth Oval last Sunday when a ten-man Perth Glory battled their nemesis Wollongong Wolves.

The 1-1 result, played in humid conditions, has lifted the runaway league leaders eleven points clear of their nearest rivals. Ever since that unforgettable championship final at Subiaco Oval in 2000, Glory - Wolves fixtures have been fiercely contested and this one was no exception.

"It's very simple, everyone in Perth hates us for one reason or another," quipped Wolves coach Ron Corry in response to the question why the games are always highly competitive. "We love to come here and play; it's the biggest 'local derby' in the league," said Corry.

We didn't come to lose or draw, we came to have a go and if every team had that sort of attitude it would be a much better spectacle. People like to come and see hard play, not dirty play, and there is nothing wrong with that," he said.

The 13,552 crowd was in full cry throughout the ninety minutes, especially after Perth wing-back Scott Miller was surprisingly sent-off in the 20th minute for lashing out at Alex Castro.

However, Glory played a better brand of attacking football after the dismissal and in fact had a number of strong opportunities to snatch maximum points. "I would have preferred it if they had eleven men because we were playing better when they had a full side on the park," said Corry.

We had chances to pinch it but

so did Perth Glory. So, as it turned out in the wash it was a fair result," he said.

The match began in an end-to-end pattern and at an electric pace regardless of the muggy conditions that prevailed.

Glory match captain Matt Horsley had another impressive game, his 299th NSL appearance, especially since he was up against his former club as well as having a point to prove; although he declined to say what that point actually was.

It is quite possible that it had to do with the compensation payout from FIFA for the cancelled World Club Championship and some Wollongong players felt that the players share should go to just those who remained at the club.

Horsley was involved in the first real scoring opportunity of the game after 13 minutes, when he shoulder-charged Dino Mennillo off the ball before centering the ball to Damian Mori.

The deadly netbaster executed an impressive scissors kick that threatened but didn't succeed. Bobby Despotovski, who was at his classy best, picked out Brad Maloney in the 21st minute with a searching centre, but his lunging volley went just wide of Dean Anastasiadis' left-hand upright. Both Mori and Despotovski were working hard for a breakthrough, which eventually came at the end of the opening half, when Horsley pierced the Wolves rearguard with the perfect pass into the run of an unmarked Maloney, and who gratefully slotted the ball under

the advancing 'keeper.

The Wollongong visitors came out for the second half in a composed yet far more determined frame of mind although they couldn't carve out a breakthrough until just over an hour's play.

After collecting a Castro through-ball, Stuart Young released a fierce ground shot that was smartly saved by Jason Petkovic; but the rebound was pushed over the line by the unlucky Maloney after it struck the upright. Two minutes later, the Glory fans had their heart in their mouths again when Petkovic almost lost the ball to two Wollongong players after he was stranded well out of his goal.

Those very same fans uttered their disappointment at referee Angelo Nardi in the 69th minute after missing some shirt-pulling on Despotovski inside the Wolves penalty area. Mori, Horsley, Brad Hassell and Despotovski all had further chances on goal in the closing stages but couldn't strike the target. Club captain Gareth Naven made his long-awaited return to the side with a minute left on the clock but enough time to hear a 'welcome back' cheer from the Perth faithful. His previous outing was in last season's Elimination Final against the Melbourne Knights at Subiaco Oval.



Brad Maloney: He scored for both Perth Glory and Wollongong Wolves.

Melbourne Knights Olympic Sharks

By Alan Clark

Melbourne Knights' poor home form continued with a 2-1 defeat at the hands of Olympic Sharks on Sunday.

Olympic had taken an early lead when Tom Pondeljak scored after eight minutes in an entirely unintentional way — a clearance by Daniel Piorkowski cannoned-off his shins and into the net.

Toto Da Costa levelled midway through the second half when he reacted first to a free-kick which had breached the Sharks' defensive wall to bring the Knights into a game which had seemingly vanished out of reach.

But defender Ante Juric wrapped up the points for Olympic when he took advantage of a half-clearance from a corner to bang the ball home under minimal pressure from ten yards.

Sharks' coach Gary Phillips was thankful that his teams' dominance on the park provided the win, when it seemed that the chance had gone. "We created enough chances but we turned the ball over and put ourselves under pressure," he said after the game.

"We missed Nick (Carle) a lot tonight." Carle had just that evening stepped on a flight to France to begin his contract at First Division Troyes.

But there were returning players fielded by both teams. Olympic gave a debut to Steve Laybutt who had returned to Australia after a stint in the Netherlands, and Kresimir Marusic made his first appearance for Knights after returning from various periods in Belgium and with other NSL sides Sydney United, Sydney Olympic, and Carlton.

However, it was left up to two others making returns to put their stamp on the direction of this game. It was Pondeljak returning to Knights stadium where once he

was a crowd favourite who spoilt the Knights party with an opportunist goal after just eight minutes.

And Juric returning to Olympic after spending the early part of the season in Norway showed he could also play the part of the prodigal son with his priceless winner.

Although the opener came early, Lindsay Wilson had already shown he was to be a potent force wide on the right for the Sharks, running past Ivan Jolic almost at will. After just eight minutes, he sent in a hard and low cross from the bye-line which skimmed along the edge of the six-yard box.

Jade North only just failed to reach it and the Knights defence looked to clear.

The task eventually fell to Daniel Piorkowski who sought to

the game, even at that early point in the contest.

Wilson was to continue his dominance on the right for Olympic throughout the half, and much of the opportunities being carved out for the visitors were being created by him.

Da Costa's equaliser came out of the blue and when the game seemed well in Olympic's grasp. Referee Simon Micallef had awarded Knights a free kick just left of goal and 30 metres out. Daniel Vasilevski hit it at the wall where Jolic backheeled it behind him and the wall to where Da Costa had ghosted.

With all of the Sharks players claiming for an offside except the Sharks player who played Da Costa onside, Da Costa blasted the ball into the net with understandable glee.

But the Knights' supporters' joy was short-lived. Despite the setback, Olympic continued to press for the win, and with time fast disappearing, Juric scored following



Ante Juric (right): Scored the crucial winner for Olympic Sharks.

belt the ball out of the danger area. Unfortunately for the hapless Piorkowski, the clearance cannoned off Pondeljak's shins and carried into the far corner of the Knights' goal.

Although it was scarcely the most elegant of goals, it was fair reward for the Sharks' approach to

up after an earlier Sharks' shot arising from a corner had only been palmed away by Knights goalkeeper Martin Johns.

"I thought our first half an hour was one of the worst we'd played this year," said a disappointed captain-coach Andrew Marth after the game.

Matthew Engele: Signed, Sealed and sent-off to Chievo

By Mark Stavroulakis

It's been a fairytale season for one of Italy's newest clubs in the Serie A.

Chievo Verona were promoted for the first time this year into the top flight. Many people expected this team to be the easy beats of the competition, many people so far, have been proved wrong.

Currently sitting in fourth spot, Chievo Verona

have added a new member to their short list of players, former Australian U17's striker Matthew Engele. The 17-year-old signed a three year deal and will be the only Australian at the moment playing in the Serie A.

The 'Ox' as he is known to his former teammates will start from the bottom and play for Chievo's Primavera side (Youth Side), but will be training with the First team gaining that much needed experi-

ence. "I am delighted to have signed a professional contract with Chievo, as it was my dream to make it overseas. Now that I've put my foot in the door, I have to focus on playing well for the Primavera side, and hopefully getting a call-up for the First team," said Engele.

Chievo Verona first noticed young Engele at a World Youth tournament held once a year in Trieste, called Gradisca. It was at this tournament a few clubs

took interest in the big lad and soon after asked the youngster for trials. "It was late April of last year, I was selected in a NSW select

group to represent Australia at the Gradisca Tournament. This competition had big teams from around the globe, it was the ideal chance of getting spotted by a scout, who were pretty much present at every game. As soon as the tournament ended, Perugia and Chievo asked me to stay back for a few weeks



Matthew Engele: "I couldn't believe it, it was a dream come true".

and trial with both clubs. Soon after my trial period, I received news that Chievo were offering me a professional contract, I couldn't believe it, it was a dream come true," said the former NSWIS player.

Adjusting to the Italian way of life will be a task for young Engele to accomplish, but the former Joeys star believes that he has what it takes to surpass various obstacles. "Like so many players playing in a country with English as their second language, it's always going to be tough. I will go to school and learn Italian over in Chievo, which will help me a great deal in the long run. Chievo as a place is completely different to what I was used in Sydney. It's a little town situated on the outskirts of Verona, being so small, everyone knows everyone, but from what I noticed, it is a very friendly place to be in," said the six-foot star.

The former Knox Grammar student will be

facing a big task in playing in one of the hardest leagues in the world. Renowned for their skills and tactics, the Italian way of playing football will be very new to young Matthew.

"While I was trailing at Chievo, I noticed that they loved to play around with the ball. Their skills are awesome, and they do use a heap of tactics as well. The Australian Youth competition is much tougher and more physical than the Italian Primavera, but the skills and tactics are another story," said 'Ox'.

Young Engele was apart of the NSWIS for two seasons, then made the step-up to the AIS, where he spent a solid season there. During his stay at the AIS, he was also dual registered by Northern Spirit. "I spent two really good

seasons at the NSWIS under coach Kelly Cross. Soon after that, I gained a scholarship at the AIS, it was a whole new ball game over there. Training everyday with top-notch facilities was beneficial for me as a footballer.

Before I accepted the deal with AIS, I was also playing for Northern Spirit's youth side. Spirit allowed me to sign for the AIS on a dual registration, so that I could improve myself more as a player," said the former AIS graduate.

Matthew was also apart of the U17 Australian side, who took part in the World Cup held in Trinidad & Tobago, where he gained international experience as a player. "Being in a World Cup with the Australian team was amazing, it was a great experience for myself. It gave me a first hand look

at how we compare with the rest of the world. The World Cup itself was great as there were good crowds and the standard of football was really high. We went well in the group stages, but unfortunately lost in the quarterfinals to Nigeria. Nevertheless it was truly an amazing experience, and I would love to take the next step up in playing for the U20's squad," said the former Joeys star.

Engele departed for Italy last Tuesday afternoon, where he traded the Australian sun for the chilly Italian winter. No doubt a huge star in the making, young Matthew has set his sights on

some goals for the rest of the year, to try and crack a first team spot. Keep a watchful eye on this young man's name, Matthew Engele, a star in the making.



National League Soccer Team For Canberra

Call for Expressions of Interest

The Board of Soccer Canberra invites expressions of interests from clubs, organisations or individuals, either in Canberra and the region, interstate or internationally based, who have an interest in seeing the re-establishment of a National League Soccer Team in Canberra.

While the soccer community of Canberra appears keen to have a team in the National Soccer League once again, it is important to ensure that there is enough support, both financial and in kind, to ensure that any new club would be viable over a number of years.

Soccer Canberra is therefore seeking expressions of interest from individuals, clubs, organisations or government, who might be interested in participating in the development of a proposal to be put to Soccer Australia. Particularly, Soccer Canberra is seeking involvement on matters of finance and funding, management, ownership, structure and support base, or on any other related matter.

Comments or submissions should be forwarded to reach Soccer Canberra at PO Box 50, CURTIN ACT 2605, by no later than 28 February 2002. Alternately, comments or submissions may be forwarded by email to info@soccercanberra.com.au.

Telephone inquiries may be directed to +612 6260 4000.

CONFIDENTIALITY: If it is the wish of those making an expression of interest or submission that their identity be kept confidential, that request will be honoured.

At the conclusion of this process, a summary report will be issued by the Board of Soccer Canberra.



Matthew Engele: In training during his two year stint at NSW Institute of Sport.

LIPAROTI RETURNS FROM TRIAL

By Bert van Bedaf

South Melbourne defender, Robert Liparoti has returned from a trial with First Division club, Millwall.

The tall defender said he'd enjoyed the experience training and playing with the English club, which is vying for a Premier League berth next season.

"I've got no regrets having gone for a trial. Although I was unsuccessful, I gained a lot from it. Millwall made me feel welcome and very comfortable. They really looked after me. The trip was a great experience," Liparoti said.

Liparoti was put to the test almost immediately after his arrival, getting off the plane

the night before he lined up for his practice match.

"Ideally, I would have loved to have had a few days to acclimatise and then have a go. But Millwall decided on the trial dates, it's not up to me," Liparoti said.

With half the English season gone and Millwall fighting for a Premier League spot, it wasn't easy for Liparoti to force his way into a strong line-up.

"Breaking into a squad that is fighting for promotion, isn't an easy job. Millwall are half way into their season and they have a steady lineup," Liparoti said.

The sturdy backman said he was happy to return and has started training with South again last week.

It's a steely affair as Wolves host Newcastle

By Mark Stavroulakis

Last year's champions Wollongong Wolves this Friday night face steel city and cross-state rivals Newcastle United in all important clash for both sides.

The Wolves haven't been the same championship side this season, but in the past couple of games have looked like turning the corner.

Last week summed up the Wolves' sudden revival as they pulled a near-unbelievable 1-1 draw against NSL pace setters Perth Glory at Perth Oval.

In front of almost 14,000 spectators, the Wolves could have even done better than the draw. The Glory were

forced to play with ten men after just 19 minutes, when Scott Miller was adjudged to have elbowed Wolves midfielder Alex Castro.

Wollongong will have midfielders Alex Castro, Paul Reid and Dino Mennillo as the main men in supplying the side with quality service as will the threat of youngsters Greg Sharland and Naum Sekulovski up front. Don't write off veteran striker Stuart Young either, the experienced Englishman could again be the saviour for the Wolves.

The Perth draw furthered the former Champions' chances of making a last minute top six entrance, and through recent form, could be the surprise team scraping



Stuart Young: Wolves' captain.

into the final six.

The Wolves opponents, Newcastle United, are looking to put their 2-0 loss to

Parramatta Power behind them with a good performance this week against last years champions.

The loss was a wake-up call for Ian Crook's men who this week need to be at their best in gaining any achievable result.

The defence trio of Andy Roberts, Matthew Bingley and Scott Baillie, all with a wealth of experience will look to shut out any Wolves attack. With the likes of veteran midfielder Milan Blagojevic and in form striker Joel Griffiths, Newcastle look set to over-write last week's performance.

An interesting aspect to this tie is the return of Newcastle trio, Daniel Beltrame, Robert Middleby

and Esala Masi to their former club - the Wolves.

Currently sitting on 25 points in third position, United need these vital three points to keep in touch with the Strikers and league leaders Glory. United have scored 19 goals and have conceded 14 while the Wolves currently ninth, have scored 16 and have conceded 23 goals.

Both coaches will demand total commitment from their respective players as recent clashes between the pair have been rough to say the least.

The main match kicks off at 7.30pm where it will be all out war between the steel city brothers.

MARUSIC RETURNS TO KNIGHTS

By Bert van Bedaf

THE Melbourne Knights have signed midfielder Kresimir Marusic, welcoming back another of their favorite sons.

Marusic left Sydney United less than a fortnight ago after falling out with coach Branko Culina, who also coached the Knights in the early 1990s. He has signed for the Knights for the rest of the season.

Croatian born, Marusic also played for former NSL club Carlton, for the Northern Spirit and Olympic Sharks. The 32-year-old was brought out to Australia when Mirko Bazic coached the Knights for his second season in 1994-95. Having lost the previous grand final 1-0 to Adelaide City, Bazic turned the tables on City, beating the Adelaide team 2-0 with Marusic playing a major role.

Knights defender Steve Horvat won the Joe Marston medal for best on ground in that grand final, while Andrew Marth captained the side. The trio are now re-united.

All three also have played for defunct side Carlton. Marusic played in Carlton's inaugural season, that anticlimaxed with a 2-1 losing grand final

against South Melbourne. Ironically, Con Boutsianis, who returned to South Melbourne three weeks ago, scored the winning goal against Carlton.

The two opponents are likely again to line up against each other for their old clubs when the Knights and South meet in round 18 on February 8.

Possibly it won't be at Colonial stadium but at Knights stadium now that Frenchman Eric Cantona won't be playing for the Sunshine club, despite a \$100,000 offer.

Now coach as well as captain, Marth is happy to be re-united with Marusic, who will play an attacking, midfield role. "He is a quality midfielder, giving us another outlet in attack. I might have to play as a defensive midfielder," said Marth, who already has been helping out in defence lately.

"Marusic has a lot of experience and once he has familiarised himself with our style of play, he will be able to impose his presence and influence on the game," he said.

Marusic equally is as satisfied to be back at the Knights, where his NSL career, now spanning 120 matches, began eight years ago. "It all started from here. The Knights are my first love," Marusic said.

Doumanis' agenda for NSW Soccer

(Cont. from front page)

Doumanis has for sometime been advocating for the introduction of an Eastern Board competition which would incorporate those clubs from the Eastern Board States who have the infrastructure, administration and the financial ambition to play at a higher level than the Premier competition that each state can offer.

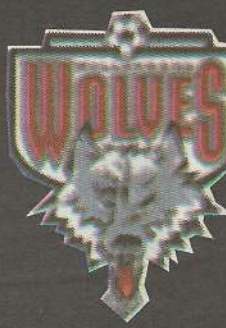
"Obviously such a competition would need the co-operation of Soccer Australia, State and the National League Clubs. Reason and logic suggests that it would not be an impossible competition to put in place.

Much work however needs to be done to put a financial structure in place, which would make such a competition viable. I believe however, where there is a will and the concept is viable, a way will be found", said the hopeful President.

Running along side Doumanis will be Ross Kelly and John Mundt both with impeccable experience in the NSW Soccer Federation. Ross Kelly is a current Director of the Board who has the experience and knowledge to continue and further the interest of the stakeholders.

Ross Kelly was also instrumental in finalising the wording of the last obstacle to the signing of the Heads of Agreement. John Mundt is President of Macarthur and has been involved in Industrial Relations and Chairman of the Super League Clubs. John will add a new dimension to the array of many skilled Directors on the Board.

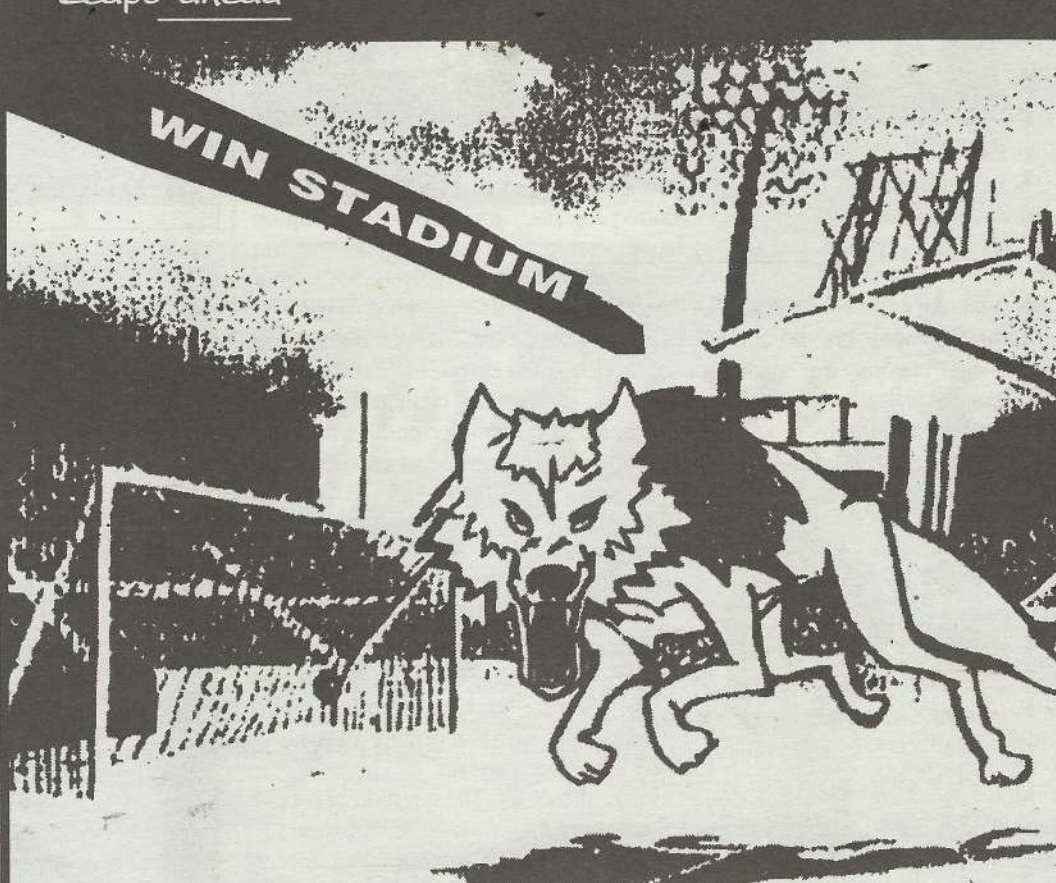
Overall, 141 votes from across NSW will determine the next President of NSW.



Wollongong Wolves

versus Newcastle United

Leaps ahead



Friday February 1 at WIN Stadium, kick off 7:30pm

Youth Game kick off at 4.30pm,
gates open at 4.00pm

Wests

Illawarra

South coast

GRAPHICS PRINTERS

WIN

TELEVISION

i98

FM

Letters to the Editor

Ned Zelic's stalling career

Dear Sir,

Ned Zelic is once again in the news for the wrong reasons. The new manager at 1860 Munich is reported far from impressed with the level of Zelic's fitness.

For some years now there have been consistent but unconfirmed rumours about Zelic's problem with fitness. At his best, there is no question Zelic is a class player but I have always been amazed that he has persisted with such a modest Bundesliga club like 1860 Munich.

If history is any guide and Zelic's career gets stuck in neutral gear how long will it be before he reverses his pledge never to play for the Socceroos again? This will no doubt please his local and vocal fans club.

Paul Okon's shift to Watford has in some circles been portrayed as a classic example of an Oz Soccer player who never achieved his true potential.

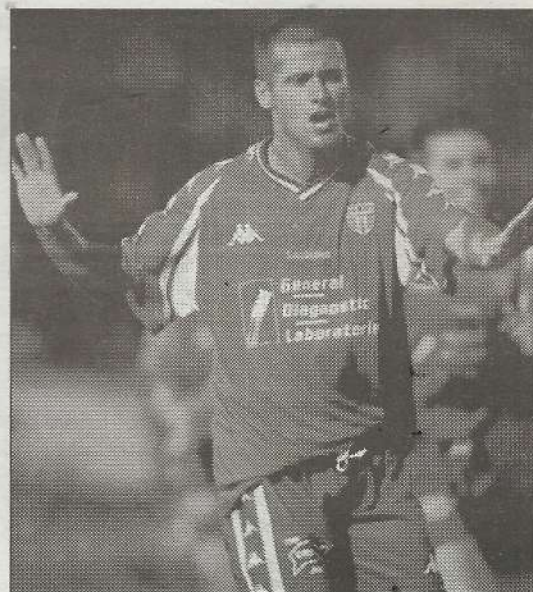
This incredible statement completely ignores one critical fact. Paul Okon — the talented player that he is — has been tragically-affected by chronic injury problems.



Ned Zelic: His career at 1860 Munich is at crossroads.

The nature of these problems are well-known to the persons making these claims but as usual they have (like so many in Oz Soccer) their own agenda.

R. Melor,
Bondi, NSW.



Con Boutsianis: Returned to South Melbourne with a bang.

Boutsianis the Man

Dear Sir,

Well, Con Boutsianis came back to Bob Jane Stadium with a bang. Banging a goal against the club that wouldn't let him go. After Bootsie scored the winner he went up to the Auckland Kingz' bench and gave them a 'Up Yours' Sign. I think about three times.

Well done Bootsie. The issue with the Kingz was a joke in that he wasn't allowed to play in the clash between the two sides. You can't command a player to do something when he's not under your reins. Watch Out! South Melbourne will be in the finals.

Everyone knows Bootsie for his off-field behaviour. Every one remembers the bad things he's allegedly done.

Haven't we all stuffed-up once in our lives? Boutsianis is for me one of the best players in the National League. He can bang goals left right and center.

He's got that magic curve on the ball when he hits it. How many times have other players tried to copy him but they never work out. He's got great skills on the ball which shows he is a class player.

I'd pay my \$10 just to go watch Boutsianis play. Good Luck Bootsie! U're the best... U're number one.

Cheers,

B.S.,
Dandenong, VIC.

Going to the World Cup thru' Asia

Dear Sir,

It's interesting to read now of different ways and schemes to try and get a direct path to the finals from Oceania, such as Australia being in the Top 50 FIFA rankings to qualify, since the doors through Asia are firmly shut.

It's amazing how times have changed, Frank Farina has never being interested in FIFA rankings before, but now seems to have a change of heart, because the doors through Asia are well and truly bolted tight, and a direct passage (virtually a free pass) is a continual pipe-dream.

Well it's time we work, with FIFA's help to unlock those doors for our own benefit as well as the rest of the Oceania region.

It's no point going over what the past administrations of both Australia and Oceania have done

wrong to alienate them from us, with all means needed to correct the situation in future, such as more friendlies with all East-Asian countries as a trade-off for joining the region for the World Cup finals.

An extra position for Asian countries to qualify for the World Cup is a carrot FIFA can offer to help the Oceania region if it allows Oceania into their football zone for World Cup qualification. Something has to be done along those lines to prise-open the doors slowly but surely, otherwise we will continue to be wasting our time trying to qualify for the Holy Grail every four years in a sudden-death situation which our team of champions are not fully prepared for.

We need a champion team, not a team full of champions who hardly know each other.

Qualification through Asia is the only way to produce a champion team, even if most are local players. Otherwise we might as well wait until we can join into the European Zone for World Cup qualification if the time comes when air travel between Europe and Australia is reduced to no more than four hours either way.

That I am afraid is at least 30 years away before it's economically viable at a reasonable cost. It's more likely to be half a century away to be certain.

The question of course is, what benefit would it be for Australian Soccer trying to qualify the much harder way through a European group if it were ever to be? Possible in the long term. Very little I would think. So Ian Knop and Basil Scarsella please bring the bolt-cutters out and unlock those Asians doors.

Dominic Scullino,
Nerang, Qld.



Branko Culina

Dear Sir,

Recently, Sydney United head coach Branko Culina has been severally reported in various media for castigating other club sides in the NSL.

What's the matter with Culina?

The highly-respected Culina started with Northern Spirit in which he was said to have cast doubts about their survival in the NSL.

After that, he shifted attention to Newcastle United and reportedly described them as "the worst team he has seen this season".

The reasons behind this new-found penchant to paint other clubs in a false light, I really do not understand, but I'll just wish Culina stop these public comments and focus in his job.

He earned a lot respect for himself at Sydney Olympic when he helped mould them into a formidable side and made them a Top Six side, before he left in mysterious circumstances just before the start of the season.

Sydney United are not really firing on all cylinders in the true sense of the word, and it therefore beats me why Culina would close his eyes to the raging storm in his own house and concentrate on other team's showings.

The Newcastle United he

found joy in attacking are one of the most-consistent teams so far this season and for good measure, are second on the table — nine places above Sydney United.

I don't want to ascribe Culina's actions to envy, but why on earth would he criticise them?

I reckon he needs to discard this new tendency of his and focus on doing the kind of good job we all know he can at the "BraveHearts".

Thanks a lot.

Paul Felgate,
Gosford, NSW.



Colosimo belongs here

Dear Sir,

This might appear like a hard option, but in view of Simon Colosimo's travails at Manchester City, methinks he'll be better off returning home to lace-boots for any side in the National Soccer League.

Since the young defender left South Melbourne for Man City, it's been a long, never-ending tale of fruitless expectations.

Everyone expected young Simon to make a name for himself and complete the vital transition from local hero to international star.

It never happened and the more Simon remains at the club, the more his soccer career will continue to nose-dive.

He was unfortunate to end up at a club with established players and for someone like him who has had little international experience, it will be

an uphill battle to get some recognition there.

Coach Kevin Keegan, I believe, was being very frank and sincere recently when he revealed that he had long agreed with Simon that if he failed to break into the team, he will allow him to seek his fortune elsewhere. Poor Simon. As hardworking and resourceful as he is, he needs to realise that playing regularly is what his young career needs more than anything else and for it to flourish.

It is pointless sitting on the reserve bench week in, week out without the chance to showcase your skills, whatever pedigree you might have had in the past. A good player is only assessed based on his performance on the pitch and if Simon wishes to forge ahead, he needs to get regular action.

Which brings up the question of considering the option of returning to

the NSL. This might sound ludicrous, but if that is what will save Simon's career, methinks it is worth giving a thought.

Already, there's talk of high-riding Perth Glory showing some interest in him. I think he should give it some thought and speak to the club.

Apart from the fact that the Glory are currently blitzing the competition, the fact remains that they have probably the oldest team in the NSL.

A young and highly-talented player like Simon will further strengthen the side as well as consolidate for the coming seasons when some of the present regulars will no more be up to the job.

It's an option worth giving some thought.

Marth Adrian,
Bendigo, VIC.

OFF THE CROSSBAR



By Allan Crisp

WHEN SECOND BEST IS GOOD ENOUGH

Under normal circumstances second best is rarely considered to be good enough in any contest.

But, the South Australian Soccer Federation's 2002 Summer Night Series will provide the exception to the rule because only the top team of each of the five groups will automatically qualify for the quarter-finals.

This stipulation leaves just three places for the final eight and they will come from the BEST three runners-up from the five groupings.

Goal difference therefore could be the determining factor, something not lost on the newly named Adelaide Galaxy (formerly Birkalla), who, started their campaign by inflicting a massive 9-1 hammering on the Cobras.

Round one of the competition kicked-off in oppressively hot weather when coasting should have been the order of the day rather than the posting of a cricket score.

But, there was method in the summer madness of the Galaxy, whose coaching staff is acutely aware of the importance of racking up healthy winning margins.

Urgency is increased for Galaxy coaching duo, Milan Ivanovic and Phil Scardigno because series joint favourites, the Blue Eagles are in the same Group A.

Much the same scenario exists in Group B, where Premier League outfits, Raiders, White City Woodville and Adelaide City will target State League side Hills Hawks as their birds of prey.

The youthful City Zebras sounded their early warning by downing White City 5-2 in round one, but, hey, this is just a warm-up tournament, or so, some people say!

Olympic leapt out of the blocks with a first up 1-0 win over Playford Patriots in the Monday night fixture, when a Nek Galanopoulos goal separated the combatants.

Noarlunga Bulldogs could be confined to the Group C dog house as the Patriots strive to atone for the early loss, while Olympic and the Pirates (formerly Port Lion) go for broke in their remaining games.

Campbelltown City look to have a mortgage on Group D where State League sides

Enfield Falcons, Panthers and Western Strikers should battle for the best runner-up berth.

Freshly promoted Para Hills Knights were a first round Group E casualty at the hands of Metro Stars, lanced 2-0 by the now established Premier League club.

State League Croydon Kings upset the status quo by downing Modbury Jets 1-0, but there still is a long way to go to Tiparery, or to tip out last season's Premier League grand finalist.

By a strange coincidence, all Group A and Group E games were played as scheduled on the Saturday kick-off, but Group B, Group C and Group D were all marred by postponements because of the excessive heat.

Goals galore, or percentage poaching, can be expected when all the postponed games and the remainder of the fixtures are played.

Who knows? Maybe one of the three, second-best Group teams will emerge as the 2002 Summer Night Series champion.

RESTRICTED CHOICES

Initiative and innovation have been dealt a back hander with the decision to hamper clubs from varying the days when their home games could be played during the 2002 SA Premier League season.

Modbury Jets and Adelaide Galaxy wanted to play all of their home games on Friday nights, while Para Hills Knights wished to schedule a number of their home fixtures on Saturday evenings.

Olympic FC requested its home games be played on Sundays, a move it believed would tap a larger market.

When the changes were put to the vote, the majority opted, by a small margin, to fix the schedule to Saturday afternoons for the entire campaign.

Modbury Jets were trailblazers in staging home games on Friday nights at their Golden Grove ground, a move that brought a considerable increase in gate takings and associated canteen and bar sales.

The Jets indicated that they wished to



Milan Ivanovic: Adelaide Galaxy co-coach.

continue the practice of Friday night matches, while newly promoted Para Hills Knights flagged that they would trial some Saturday night games.

Premier League champions Blue Eagles also had investigated the viability of playing Friday evening games at their Marden Complex, but found that it clashed with social activities at the club.

A compromise of sorts was reached with the SASF saying dates other than Saturday afternoons would be allowed if the away team agreed to a proposed switch with the home team.

The SASF set a deadline for the decision making process because of time constraints in the publication of its "Year Book", Pools requirements and media requirements.

As ABSW went to press, indications were that Modbury was likely to be restricted to six Friday night home games from an expected 11.

Adelaide Galaxy also gained a reasonable response from opponents willing to switch from the traditional Saturday afternoon match to Friday nights.

But, Galaxy wanted all of its 11 home games on Fridays to justify its arrangement with the SA Government to hire Hindmarsh Stadium for home Premier League matches.

Galaxy officials were surprised by the resistance to their bold plan, arguing that visiting teams would benefit from competing on the plush Hindmarsh surface.

It seems grossly unfair that the away teams, which opposed the changes, should

have the right to stifle the home clubs' opportunities to promote and advance the game in their particular area.

BUZZETTI IS BUZZING

South Australians who know Carlos Buzzetti are not shocked by his successful run with the Vanuatu team at the OFC Under 16 Pacific Cup championships.

Buzzetti was SASF Director of Coaching for several years before accepting the national job with Vanuatu.

He guided his Island boys to an upset quarter-final win over New Zealand before beating Solomon Islands 2-1 to qualify for a cup final showdown against Australia.

The Socceroos 4-0 win in Thursday's final would not have dampened Buzzetti's enthusiasm.

SASF Manager of Coaching and Development, Martyn Crook leads the many who were not surprised by the achievements of his former coaching colleague.

"Carlos is a very passionate person who has a life long obsession for the game," Crook said.

"The coaching program he devised has worked wonderfully well and I know that he is enjoying his job and the lifestyle in the Pacific," Crook endorsed.

Meanwhile, former Australian international and West Adelaide goalkeeper, Crook is accustomed to the constant flow of Aussie soccer exports to the UK and other climes.

But, next month there will be a departure of a different kind when one of Crook's two



Lucas Pantelis

cricket playing sons, Steve Crook, 18, will leave to join Huddlesfield-based cricket club, Broadoak.

Steve and his elder brother Andy, 21, play for SA grade cricket club East Torrens, with Steve the speed bowler and Andy the spinner.

Andy Crook gained State cricket team selection two seasons ago, but a car accident put that honour on hold.

WE LIKE LUKAS

It could not have happened to a nicer lad! Lucas Pantelis was pencilled in for another stint on the Adelaide City bench when the Force took on Melbourne Knights in their last home game.

However, Matt Kemp failed to recover from injury, so Pantelis was returned to the City run-on team.

The rest is history as teenager Pantelis rose to the occasion to score the brace that tilted the game to a 3-2 home win.

A marvellous assist from Aaron Goulding for the first goal and the last gasp run and pass from City captain Carl Veart for Pantelis to complete his double-barrel explosion was lovely stuff.

ADELAIDE GAMES

A CRACKER OF AN IDEA

By Allan Crisp

Light the blue touch paper and stand clear. On Saturday night, South Australian soccer fans have the unique opportunity to see an explosive entertainment double at the Hindmarsh Stadium.

First the State team will clash with visiting Japanese J League side Consadole Sapporo as a curtainraiser to the eyebrow raising "Save The Murray Skyshow" - a spectacular fireworks display which annually attracts 150,000 people to nearby Bonython Park.

The match kicks-off at 6.30pm and ends at around 8.30pm when the stadium's public address system will be tuned to SAFM's broadcast which heralds the fireworks show. Hindmarsh Stadium's western grandstand offers an ideal vantage point to watch in comfort as modern pyrotechnics ignite the eastern skyline of Adelaide, accompanied by exciting, synchronized music.

Ticket prices for the evening are - Adults \$6, Concession \$4 and Children under 16 free.

Consadole Sapporo arrived in Adelaide last week, continuing a six-year visiting tradition by Japanese clubs that has conservatively added an estimated \$6 million return

to the State.

Consadole Sapporo will be joined in Adelaide by Tokyo Verdy 1969 on February 5, for a 10-day camp.

Tokyo Verdy is owned by Nippon Television, the largest network in Japan. The company will provide regular transmissions and reports direct from Adelaide to Japan during the camp.

A separate television crew is here to follow the team around Adelaide, charged with the mission to produce a 30-minute documentary focusing on tourism in South Australia.

Verdy also has its weekly half-hour program which is being beamed across Japan.

MATCH SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 2: SA v Consadole Sapporo. Hindmarsh Stadium, kick-off 6.30pm

Tuesday, February 5: Consadole Sapporo v Blue Eagles. Hindmarsh Stadium, 8pm.

Saturday, February 9: Tokyo Verdy v Consadole Sapporo. Hindmarsh Stadium, 7pm.

Wednesday, February 13: Tokyo Verdy v SA. Hindmarsh Stadium 6pm; Consadole Sapporo v Adelaide City Force. Hindmarsh Stadium 8pm.

ABSW's SA correspondent, Allan Crisp, former Australian international and ex-Adelaide City coach John Perin and Peter Millar, can be heard on the 5RPH (1197am) Marshall Thompson Homes/Pacific Real Estate Breakfast Soccer Show each Tuesday from 7am-9am. Perin and Crisp are joined by Blue Eagles star striker Michael Brooks each Sunday for the SOS (Soccer on Sunday) program from 8.30am-9.30am when the latest NSL, local, and overseas scores are aired along with fast breaking news, views and interviews.

Souths holds team of century gala

South Melbourne will once again make Australian Soccer history as the first National Soccer League club to announce a Team of the Century on Friday, February 22.

The South Melbourne Soccer Club Team of the Century dinner will be held at the Palladium Ballroom, Crown Entertainment Complex, starting at 7:00pm.

This historic event will certainly be one of the highlights in South Melbourne's

illustrious 43 years. With legends such as Charlie Egan, Oscar Crino, John Margaritis and more recently Steve Panopoulos, Paul Trimboli and Fausto De Amicis contesting for a spot in the final squad, there is no doubt that all sports fans will flock to witness this gala event.

As well as the announcement of the 16-man squad and coach, renowned Sydney artist Dave Thomas, whose works include sporting portraits for the Australian Cricket Board as well as the



Paul Trimboli: Eyeing a spot on the Century Team.

Melbourne Storm Rugby League club, has been commissioned to paint a portrait of the final team, which will be available in limited edition prints, signed by the final squad.

A variety of entertainment, rare unseen footage of South's history, as well as the chance to witness the announcement of South Melbourne's Team of the Century, will culminate in a night no Soccer fan should miss.



Fausto De Amicis: Also nominated for team of the century.



Steve Panopoulos: Nominated for Team of Century line-up.



Kevin Muscat: At the centre of potential transfer tussle.

Wolves hold on to Muscat

Wolverhampton Wanderers chairman, Jez Moxey last week revealed that the club has no plans to consider transfer requests from other interested clubs for its defender and captain, Aussie international Kevin Muscat.

Moxey was reacting to speculations that Scottish giants, Glasgow Rangers were preparing a huge, end of season bid for Muscat.

Muscat is reportedly being tipped as replacement for fellow-Aussie, Tony Vidmar who has already indicated he would be leaving the Scottish clubside at the end of the season.

Rangers' new coach, boss Alex McLeish was seen at the Wolves game last weekend in the English first division, apparently to monitor the controversial Australian

international and later said on the club's website that Muscat was being considered by the club in its plans for the new season.

Moxey is however not keen on expanding on Glasgow's interest, saying: "I was disappointed to read in the local press reports regarding a link between Kevin Muscat and Glasgow Rangers because there has been no contact between the clubs regarding the matter".

"It is pure speculation and unless someone comes in with an

offer it will remain speculation."

McLeish is however insistent that Rangers are interested in the Aussie defence strongman who has a reputation as a no-nonsense hardman.

"I've been keeping an eye on things at Wolves and Kevin Muscat is someone we've ran the rule over but no decision has been taken as to whether or not we will make a move for him," McLeish confirmed.

SHARKS HOST SPIRIT AMIDST FANFARE

To mark Leeds United's planned investment in Olympic Sharks, members and friends of Leeds United Australia are planning a get-together at the Shark's next home game against Northern Spirit on Sunday, 3 February.

With Northern Spirit being wholly-owned by Scotland's Glasgow Rangers, the clash is dubbed The Battle of Britain!

For those present at the last Spirit game

against Perth Glory, at North Sydney Oval there'll be a lot to expect.

The Sharks have invited the Spirit fans as their VIP guests to attend the match, party with them afterwards with BBQ provided, meet their players and generally get to know them.

A luxury coach has been arranged with videos and toilets provided to get

the fans to the Sharks' Cronulla ground at Toyota Park. The Coach leaves Cheers Bar, George Street at 4pm on February 3, arrives at the ground in time for a few pre-match drinks and will return to Cheers in time for the live Leeds vs. Liverpool game at 11pm later that night.

All Leeds fans, as well as Chelsea, Tottenham, Westham, Liverpool or other assorted fans should contact craig@leedsunitedaustralia.com to book a place on the coach. Seats are strictly limited.



CENGIC SEEKS KOREAN AID FOR EAST TIMORESE

By Graham Cooke

East Timor's national coach Ivan Cengic will travel to South Korea next month in an attempt to gain some sponsorship for his fledgling Soccer program. Speaking in Canberra, where he still has a home, last week, Cengic said the initial signs were hopeful.

"I sent off some letters to various South Korean companies explaining our desperate financial position and inclosing my CV, and I got a letter back from the chairman of Hyundai saying he wanted more information and offering to pay the fares of three officials to Seoul to discuss it further," he said.

East Timor's international program to date has consisted of forays by junior teams into the Northern Territory and last year's Kanga Cup in Canberra.

"There is no money for an international playing strip, let alone travel," Cengic said. "We are expecting a team from Portugal to play in Dili in May, but beyond that there is nothing."

"I think the South Koreans will be very interested. For a relatively small expenditure they can sponsor the whole of soccer in East Timor and gain a great deal of favourable publicity. There are some very talented players in the country who deserve a chance to test their skills at a higher level."



Alan Cengic: "I think the South Koreans will be very interesting."

"There is no money for an international playing strip, let alone travel," Cengic said. "We are expecting a team from Portugal to play in Dili in May, but beyond that there is nothing."

BOSNIAN PROS CRUSH DEAKIN

By Graham Cooke

Four goals in nine minutes early in the second half separated the boys of Canberra Deakin from the visiting full-time professionals of Ljubuski, of Bosnia-Herzegovina, last week, Tuesday night.

After a shaky start Deakin had taken the lead in the 15th minute, and in the 55th still had hopes, with the score at 1-1.

But Ljubuski, touring Australia during a winter break in the Bosnian first division, ripped through the Deakin defence time and again in this devastating spell, clocking up a 5-1 lead before easing into a pleasant cruise on a balmy summer's evening at Deakin Oval.

The odds were always stacked against Deakin. The team had only begun training just over a week before the game, and fielded one player from last season's losing ACT Premiership grand final side.

As if these were not difficulties enough, Deakin lost the experienced John Rakic, on loan from Belconnen Blue Devils, to injury in the first half, then



Vlado Horvat

coach Vlado Horvat decided to play the second without midfielder Marcial Munoz and goal scorer Zvonko Ushalburka.

Assistant coach John Bull said the team, mostly from Deakin's reserve grade of last season, were too young and not strong enough physically for such formidable opposition.

"We allowed ourselves to be knocked off the ball too easily," he said.

"However, it's early days. We have some good youngsters, and with a little more preparation they will be ready to step into the Premiership side." Ljubuski's scorers were Ivica Mihaljevic, Slaven Sabljic, Damir Vucic, Tomislav Mihals and Kenan Delalic.

ANOTHER DEVILS PLAYER QUILTS

By Graham Cooke

Belconnen Blue Devils lost another player this week when Lee Pietrukowski told the club he wanted to leave at the halfway stage of the NSW Premier League season.

Defender Pietrukowski said that he wanted a rest before playing the ACT winter season. He did not rule out trying to make a comeback for the Blue Devils in 2002-03.

His departure adds to the woes of coach Lino Fiorese. Star striker Steve Lazzari walked out on the club after a dispute over his role in the team, defender Elia Salloum decided to switch

to indoor soccer and defender Oscar Zamora and midfielder John Rakic are injured.

With these kinds of problems, Fiorese needed to make a new signing quickly and probably could not have chosen better than Canberra Deakin's David Milin.

Milin played 52 games for Canberra Cosmos in the NSL, scoring two goals, and is the ultimate utility man, having appeared in almost every out-field position in the NSL, NSW and ACT competitions.

His problem will be lack of match fitness, although he looked reasonably sharp playing for Deakin in the friendly match with Ljubuski of Bosnia Herzegovina last week.

Fallon's changes work for Kingz

By Shaun Melville

Football Kingz' head coach, Kevin Fallon is growing grey hairs about his team's defensive problems which have seen them concede late goals and ended up on the losing end several times over this season.

Many a game, particularly at the Kingz, Ericsson Stadium base have started with the homers dictating play and even going ahead with goals only to suddenly lose the initiative and let their opponents in with last-minute goals.

"We are still getting punished by the late goals. But...we are still playing some good stuff."

Undaunted however, under-pressure Fallon has initiated far-reaching changes to the team's defence in a bid to rejuvenate it and make them withstand the rigours of the unfolding season. Fed up with last-minute goals conceded by the Kingz, Fallon has brought back Campbell Banks, while converting big striker, Joe Markovski into the heart of the defence.

Markovski first played in his new role at Bob Jane the previous week and the new formation almost worked as the Kingz frustrated the Sout Melbourne attack until late in the game when returning Con

Boutsianis blew the defence away with a wonder, 88th minute strike.

Banks, who had been out for the past fortnight with a broken toe, joined Paul Urlovic in the attack, to help lend some support to Harry Ngata and the tireless Andy Vlahos.

Simon Eady has been recalled as a back-up player in the defence in case the starters failed to live up to expectations.

He was expected to also serve as sidekick to ex-Canberra Cosmos veteran Robbie Hooker, who has helped bring some stability to the Kingz' defence since he joined about three weeks back.

Hooker, along with Markovski now represent the Kingz' new-look defensive formation – something that was totally never envisaged at the start of the season. They give more coverage to impressive goal-keeper Michael Theklitos, whose one-man displays have been coming to the Kingz' rescue on several occasions.

The result has been that Theklitos is receiving several knocks week in, week out and had to undergo a last-minute fitness test before last weekend's game against Marconi. Even at that, he again got injured and had to be substituted midway into the match.

"Michael had a few problems," Fallon said.



Joe Markovski (left): Deployed from a striking role to a defender.

"I will give him as much time as possible. James Bannatyne has also not been 100 per cent after getting a knock, and maybe some slight concussion".

With Markovski and Hooker holding sway in the middle, the flanks were manned by Jonathan Perry and Sean Douglas as a means of utilising their speed – something which Fallon hoped would see them

going forward to help the midfield.

The Kingz returned to North Harbour for the Friday night win against Marconi Stallions for only the second occasion this season, and in accordance to the better conditions there, put up a good display which according to one of the coaches, was due to the fact they trained there all through last week.

NORTHERN SPIRIT WADES INTO RUDAN SCANDAL

Northern Spirit say they will trace the whereabouts of the missing transfer monies at the centre of a surprise scandal, which last week landed former Spirit defender Mark Rudan in trouble in Germany.

The scandal centres around the circumstances surrounding Rudan's transfer to German Second division club Alemannia Aachen. Rudan was last week arrested and remanded in custody along with former Alemannia Aachen treasurer Bernd Krings and player advisor Hans Haegele.

There is also a warrant out for another player advisor Frano Zelic.

Northern Spirit General Manager Colin Mitchell confirmed the club had spoken with German authorities regarding the alleged transfer.

"We have offered all the relevant information to the authorities investigating the transfer in Germany and informed Soccer Australia of the situation a long time ago," Mitchell said. "If something



Mark Rudan

has been done outside the law or football regulations then we will help the authorities get to the bottom of it."

Rudan left Northern Spirit at the start of the 2000/01 NSL and the club had no contact with Alemannia Aachen.

"We will be watching the events with interest because if a transfer has been paid and we have been duped out of what turns out to be money we are legally entitled to then we will chase it through the relevant channels," Mitchell said.

Rudan played 46 games for Northern Spirit in the 1998/99 and 1999/2000 seasons.

OLYMPIC SHARKS VS NORTHERN SPIRIT

THIS SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 3

at the

TOYOTA PARK

Kick-off: Main Game 6.00pm • Youth League 4.00pm



LG Family Hill
Alcohol Free Zone



Manager: Gary Phillips



Clint Bolton



Nick Carle



Dylan Macallister



Pablo Cardozo



Craig Foster



Manager: Mickey Hickman

Mayor Sponsor,

The Bank of Cyprus.

National Youth League

SOUTHERN DIVISION RESULTS RD 14

Albury Wodonga	0	Melbourne Knights Youth	3
<i>(Anthony Pelikan, Sam Kalakias, Bill Natsioulas)</i>			
Melbourne Knights Academy	6	Bulleen Zebras	0
<i>(Xhezair Sulemani 3, Boris Ovcin 2, Zoltan Zold)</i>			
Melbourne Knights Youth	2	South Melbourne Eagles	1
<i>(Bill Natsioulas, Anthony Pelikan)</i>			
Albury Wodonga	0	South Melbourne Institute	3
<i>Green Gully 2 Preston Lions 3</i>			

SOUTHERN DIVISION LEAGUE LADDER - ROUND 14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Melb. Inst.	14	12	2	0	61	12	38
Melbourne Knights	14	9	3	2	34	13	30
South Melb. Eagles Ac	14	9	1	4	31	18	28
Melb. Knights Academy	14	7	2	5	35	20	23
Bulleen Zebras	14	6	1	7	30	42	19
Albury Wodonga	14	3	1	10	21	37	10
Green Gully Cavaliers	14	2	2	10	13	38	8
Preston Lions	14	1	2	11	15	60	5

Round 15 Fixture

(Play-offs to be arranged)

South Melb. Institute v Melb. Knights Youth
South Melb. Eagles v Melb. Knights Academy

By Roy Hay

Bulleen Zebras 0

Melb. Knights Academy 6
In the decider for the final place in the play-offs, Melbourne Knights Academy eventually overcame Bulleen Zebras by six goals to nil.

The match was much closer than the score suggests and Bulleen was well in the game until it had a player sent off in the second half.

Although the conditions were slipper underfoot both sides played a very open game till the Knights got its third goal.

Boris Ovcin had opened the scoring in the second minute and Zoltan Zold added a second five minutes later.

But it was not till the 69th minute that Ovcin scored his second, then Xhezair Sulemani completed a quick fire hat-trick in 70, 74 and 90 minutes.

Adam Hrehoresin was excellent in goals for the Knights and others to shine were Ross Napoli, Misumi Nashida and the hat-trick hero.

Melbourne Knights Youth 2

South Melbourne Eagles 1

Melbourne Knights Youth made sure of the double chance with a two-one win over South Melbourne Eagles on Saturday in a very high quality game.

Bill Natsioulas continued his fine form with the only goal of the first half after 32 minutes.

Steve Esposito equalised for the Eagles in 67 minutes only for Anthony Pelikan to restore the Knights advantage five minutes later.

The Academy played with three men up front all night as it chased the runner-up spot but to no avail.

Best for the Knights were Natsioulas,

Sam Kalakias and Ramazan Tavsanicioglu.

Green Gully 2

Preston Lions 3

Preston Lions recorded its first win of the season in its final match at Green Gully on Sunday.

Robert Dolevski scored twice taking his tally for the season to eight and Ali Uguz got the other. The Green Gully scorers were not available at time of writing.

Albury Wodonga 0

Melb. Knights Youth 3

In a Round One catch up game, Melbourne Knights Youth beat Albury Wodonga Warriors by 3-0 at Myrtleford on Wednesday night.

Anthony Pelikan scored after only five minutes and Sam Kalakias followed up in sixteen to ensure that the Knights were well on top.

Bill Natsioulas added a late goal to complete the scoring. It was a high standard game in good conditions and the Knights stars were Natsioulas, Adam Jelic and Vito Cenitti.

Albury Wodonga 0

Sth Melb. Institute 3

South Melbourne confirmed its minor premiership with a comfortable 3-0 win over Albury Wodonga at Myrtleford on Sunday.

No goalscorers were available at time of writing.

N.B. Results, ladder and fixtures for the Northern Division of the National Youth League were unavailable as at press time due to the Australia Day Public Holiday. It will return to its normal slot next week.

England deal slows Reid down - Corry

By Richard Kreider

Talented Wollongong Wolves midfielder Paul Reid has yet to be told to pack his bags for English Premier League side Bolton Wanderers, according to Wolves coach Ron Corry. "As far as I know, with regards to the negotiations with Bolton, everything is supposed to be going ahead," he said.

"But at the moment we don't know if he goes in one week or two." "I think it's been affecting Paul because his play hasn't been up to the standard that he usually gives.



Paul Reid

He's been virtually out of the game since this has been all happening to him."

Knights drag Knop, Fariña to Tassie

By Bert van Bedaf

THE Melbourne Knights are set to host national coach Frank Farina and Soccer Australia chairman Ian Knop at their national soccer league match against Perth Glory in Tasmania next month.

The Knights play Perth at York Park, Launceston, in round 20 on February 23. The Sunshine club was banned from playing the fixture at home because of violent scenes after a finals match against Perth at Knights stadium last season.

A bold move by the Knights, the Tasmanian experiment may well prove a major breakthrough in widening support for the Sunshine

club and the national competition. Australia's small but attractive island state has a vibrant soccer scene, but it has been badly neglected by the mainland for a long time.

Previous administrators believed Tasmania's modest population of less than 500,000 was not big enough to afford an NSL side, but who knows if, for example, a Tasmanian Devils team entered the competition, what level of people and sponsorship support it would get.

If the game attracts enough backing, another NSL match next season may be in the offing. Soccer Tasmania chairman John Barker sounded positive. "An attendance of 4000 would be enough for Soccer Australia to consider a second game," Barker said.

SOCCER WOMAN BY JANENE MAR

Young Matildas - Progress report

With the main focus on the Matildas and their hat-trick of victories over South Korea to win the Australia Cup, the Young Matildas must have felt just a little neglected during their training camp held at the same time.

Time is of the essence for the Young Matildas with their sights set on the Oceania Qualification tourney (April 23-3 May in Tonga) and indeed the inaugural FIFA U19 Women's World Championship (August/September in Canada). We catch up with National Youth Coach Mike Mulvey for his thoughts on the recent camp, and how the campaign is progressing overall.

Since Mulvey commenced in the part-time role last May, this camp was only his second opportunity to bring players together, the first being the Central Coast International Series in August for matches against senior opposition Vietnam and Singapore, plus the NSW Institute of Sport.

From the ongoing search for suitable candidates carried out during the National Youth Championship in September and the first half of the WNSL season, Mulvey selected a new combination of players for the January camp.

Most noticeable were the three US-based players invited to stake their claim on a berth.

But also of the 19 local players, only ten had survived the 'cut' from the Central Coast tournament, whilst another 9 were given their opportunity to shine.

Six of these had previous national team experience as members of the 2000 Australian U17 Team which competed in the adidas Cup in the US.

The remaining three - goalkeepers Lisa Hartley and Louisa Marzotto, and striker Lisa De Vanna - were given their first chance at this level.

"I think defensively we improved from Gosford," said Mulvey. "We got players settled in to positions.

Karla Reuter and Thea Slatyer both looked promising playing at the back, although weren't put under too much pressure by the opposition, but what they were asked to do, they dealt with.

Also, the two goalkeepers from Canberra both showed promise. As a unit, we defended well from the front, which makes things easier at the back. Overall, I was quite pleased."

Mulvey also summed up the situation on the defence by saying, "There are still a couple of players in the frame - I'm looking for at least one more defender, and that's where the WNSL will be of big importance."

"In the attacking sense, we scored some good goals. The players showed themselves to be exciting and entertaining, and used good imagination and creativity."

The three matches scheduled for the camp unfortunately did not provide the most competitive of opposition nor therefore the ideal conditions to test players.

The Young Matildas subsequently cruised to three victories, 11-2 against Canberra Eclipse, 3-0 v NSW Select, and 6-0 over Victoria Vision.

"You've got to pay credit to the opposition. I was very grateful for the distance they all travelled to play us. The bottom line is that they were the best available. It was also a chance for those States' Under 19 players to show out and see whether



Lisa Hartley: Young Matildas' goalkeeper.

they were good enough, and also for some of the Junior Matildas to play."

The trio which came out from America were given their golden opportunity to show they were deserving of a place in the side. Playing against the millions of female soccer players in the US to come to little-populated Australia, the three had perhaps underestimated what they were to face.

After the week's close-up inspection, it seems only one remains in contention - midfielder Julie Ann-Brooks.

"Julie showed more than the other two. She's not far away, but maybe not quite ready for the Qualifiers.

It was a good opportunity to bring them in, otherwise we might have been left wondering. I don't consider it was a gam-

ble. They came, and they tried."

The time together proved valuable both on and off the park for a side which will hopefully make history as the first Australians to compete in the U19 World Championships.

"I feel the players have now come to terms with the significance of the agenda for the year ahead.

They understand the real opportunity they have before them to compete on the world stage.

They showed the type of determination that we're after. In the games against Canberra and Victoria, they went for the kill when they could have eased off - they kept looking to score more goals."

Overall, Mulvey finds himself closer to deciding on his team to tackle the Oceania Qualifiers, but emphasises that the door is not closed with four rounds and the national league grandfinal still to go.

Mulvey plus a network of others will be keeping a close watch on players over the next few weeks.

Selection of the team is likely to be made shortly after the 9 March WNSL grandfinal, and Mulvey is hopeful of getting the side together for around five days in camp before making the trip to Tonga for the all-important qualification tournament.

BACK INTO NATIONAL LEAGUE MODE

After the eight weeks break during which the Matildas and Young Matildas came together, it's finally back to the resumption of the national league.

The teams return to the field this weekend for Round Seven, and with just four rounds remaining before the 9 March grandfinal, the competition for points will surely hot up even more.

Will the top three move further ahead

WNSL - ROUND 7

NSW Sapphires v Adelaide Sensation, 3.00pm, Valentine Sports Park

Queensland Sting v Northern NSW Pride, 11.00am, Coffs Harbour International Stadium

Canberra Eclipse v Victoria Vision, 4.00pm, West Belconnen Leagues Club

PROGRESSIVE POINTS LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
NSW Sapphires	6	5	1	0	26	5	21	16
Canberra Eclipse	6	4	1	1	13	5	8	13
Queensland Sting	6	3	2	1	8	4	4	11
Adelaide Sensation	6	2	0	4	5	9	-4	6
Victoria Vision	6	1	1	4	4	17	-13	4
Northern Pride	6	0	1	5	7	23	-16	1

LEADING GOALSCORERS 2001/2002

- 7 - Alicia CAVANAGH, NSW Sapphires
- 5 - Carlin MUNOZ, Canberra Eclipse
- 4 - Kelly GOLEBIOWSKI, NSW Sapphires
- 3 - Katie GILL, Northern NSW Pride
- 3 - Heather GARRIOCK, NSW Sapphires
- 3 - Lisa WARRENER, NSW Sapphires
- 3 - Taryn ROCKALL, NSW Sapphires
- 3 - Amy WILSON, Canberra Eclipse

South Melbourne GM quits

After three seasons of persistent efforts, Damien Phillips has resigned from his position as General Manager, of South Melbourne Soccer Club.

Phillips, joined South Melbourne prior to the commencement of the 1999/2000 season, where behind the scenes, his hard work ethics eventuated in the squads successful trip to Fiji, winning the Oceania Club Championships.

Later that season Phillips with the support of his staff, administered the trip to the FIFA Club World Championships. He since heavily-assisted in South Melbourne's 2001 Minor Premiership triumph and the

Grand Final birth against Wollongong. He was also an integral part of the South Melbourne 2001 Board elections

Phillips has thoroughly enjoyed his time at South Melbourne, especially overseeing the Youth Development System in which he played an influential role, developing the Institute structure.

"I am extremely grateful to have been given the opportunity to work at Australia's premier Soccer club.

"I have definitely enjoyed the experience as General Manager

and have developed many strong relationships with sponsors, Board of Directors, players and close associates of the club".

"Watching young players such as Vince Lia, Massimo Murococa, Steve Manceski, Marco Santilli and Steve Pace develop and become part of the senior squad, has been a big achievement, especially for the club's future".

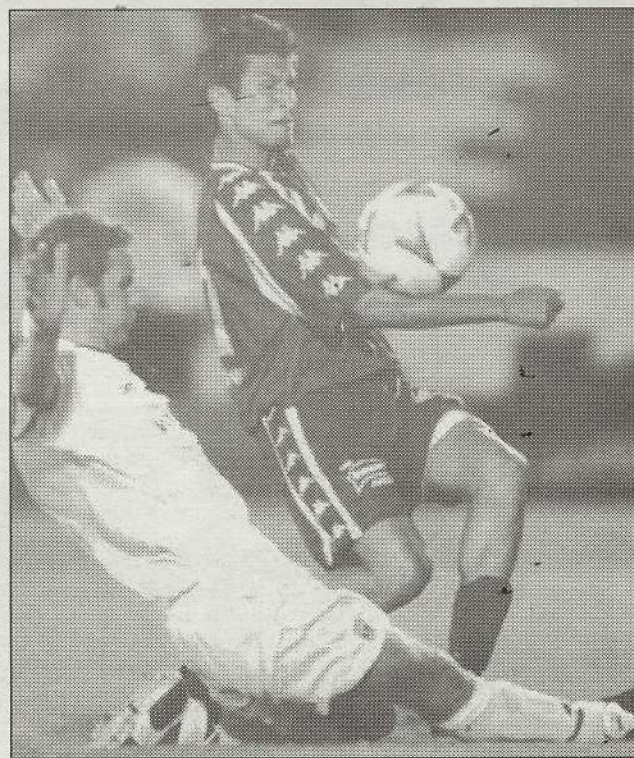
"I hope to continue my close relationship with MVP, South's Player Management consultant company and assist the club some capacity with the develop-

ment of youth players", says Phillips.

Thirty-two year old Phillips, will take up a lucrative opportunity as Business Development Manager of renowned Richmond based organisation, Print Workz.

"I could not let an offer as good as this one go. It was difficult to leave the club in the middle of a trying season".

"I will still be involved at the club, assisting in resolving various on going matters, such as that of Con Boutsianis. I will still be present at the home games and support the club in which ever way possible," says Phillips.



Vince Lia (right): His growth and rise to the senior squad was mentioned as one of Phillips' achievements.

Wollongong News

By Otto Bader

On The Road To Perth – Preparations during weekly training went smooth, full of enthusiasm and confidence, looking to new challenges with clashes coming up involving top teams like Perth and next Newcastle of the team bound close by recent revival of form.

Skipper George Souris, returned from a lengthy lay-off as well as teenage striker Naum Sekulovski both nominated in the squad. Young talent Greg Sharland (19), playing up front for the Wolves, visits his home town Perth with his new team, hoping to show-off in front of friends and family, naturally eager for a Wolves victory.

Coach Ron Corry took his boys to Perth on Friday morning for the Sunday game, training in Perth two days. They accepted an invitation by Greg Sharland's old club Inglewood United for a social visit on Saturday afternoon.

One or all points to win in Perth can be looked at as success.

Coaching Clinic – run at Brandon Park last week over 3 days saw 45 youngsters attending despite many away during School Holidays.

The clinic was conducted for kids U/8's to U/13's with several Wolves First Graders assisting. Another clinic is scheduled for April with over hundred expected to come along, going on last years figures.

Soccer Illawarra – will elect six directors at next Sunday's Annual General Meeting.

Since just six nominations have been received the election process will be over quickly. Three other directors have another year to run in office due to the two-year appointments.

Among Policy notices of motions to be voted on is one alteration of playing schedules with reversing starting times as 11.45am Reserve Grade, 1.30pm Youth Grade and 3pm First Grade. This was in force years ago and aims at keeping youth players and parents at the First Grade game. Thus Reserve Graders can assist in running a successful playing day.

Also a suggestion will be tabled to hold a Policy Meeting in early December each year if necessary for discussion of proposed changes.

Another important proposal concerns players who started their senior soccer

career at an Illawarra soccer club shall not be subject to rules restricting them from returning from a higher grade of competition and register with their former "home" ISA club.

Soccer Year 2002 – while a decision is still open whether the two competitions play with 12 or 13 teams in Premier League and 15 or 16 teams in First Division, the draw for 2002 cannot be released.

In hindsight it now makes perfect sense to play two 14 team competitions with 28 member clubs as proposed earlier but over-ruled by the clubs. Whatever eventuates, the club administrators and coaches have another tough season ahead. A mission statement

We are always hoping for success with our club and recognition nationally of our sport.

Knock-out kick-off – the oldest running soccer pre-season event since 1962, now in its 40th year, the Corrimall Leagues club sponsored knock-out starts on Sunday 10th February.

Games commence playing 2x35 minutes, semi-finals 40 minutes each way, finals 45 minutes each way. Awarded are 4 points for a win, 2 points for a score draw, 1 point for a scoreless draw.

Four grounds of 8 teams play at grounds Towradgi Park, Elizabeth Park Bellambi, Tarrawanna and Corrimall Memorial Park.



Matt Horsley (left): Wolves' ex-captain who helped Perth Glory in their 1-1 draw over the weekend.

2002 could perhaps read like this:

1. Establish successful teams, a stable clubs.
2. Promote soccer, create opportunities for aspiring juniors, attract fans to attend.
3. Build a strong relationship between Committee - coach and players based on trust and respect.
4. Maintain links with junior clubs, provide support.
5. Show unit and harmony within the soccer fraternity, actively promote the code of soccer.

This is only an idea mentioned.

Over three weekends games will be played on all four fields.

Last year's winner West Illawarra are to defend their title, challenged by Premier League contenders Port Kembla, Coniston, Kemblawarra, Cringila plus a bunch of determined other teams from both divisions.

These annual pre-season fixtures are used by the coaches to measure their sides against others and rate individual players who may have newly joined their club. Some surprise results are common and followed with great anticipation by the fans. Competition proper starts on the last weekend in March.

Profile Port Kembla Soccer Club – Premier League Champions 2001, 2000, 1999, 1996 and 1995, successful in Cup competition, supplying the leading Goal Scorer 2001, Player of the Year and Coach of the Year, ambitious as ever for more honours to come.

Coach Adrian Alston now in his 10th season with Port will be honoured with a Testimonial Dinner on Saturday 25th May at the Fraternity club.

The invited guests will represent "who is who" in Australian soccer, members and coach of the 1974 World Cup squad as well as local soccer personalities.

Port will stage their season launch at the

Modifications to the home ground Wetherall Park Primbee are well on the way. Port is aiming to win another championship for 2002.

Youth Scholarships – talented U/20's soccer players from 15 to 20 years of age are offered a \$200 – annual scholarship by Shellharbour City Soccer Club.

President Andy Campbell said in total 16 players are to be signed up, conditions applying are overall training nights attendance's or if unable notify the coach, playing if selected in the club's Youth Grade team and or the two senior sides if called upon, good discipline at all times promoting soccer and the club.

It is anticipated to attract real talent, dedicated youngsters willing to work hard and develop into higher grade senior players.

Come along to the club's training nights Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays AM to Keith Bond Oval, Oak Flats. For enquiries phone President Andy Campbell on 0412 501 909.

Experienced Sports Trainer Alan Maidman is once more available to care for players injuries, see him at training or match days.

Junior Soccer – Bruce Lord, last season's Secretary of Kiama Junior Soccer Club passed away last week.

The Illawarra Junior Soccer Association Management Committee and all Junior club members express sadness and sympathy to his family. Kiama mourns the loss of a valuable soccer club administrator.

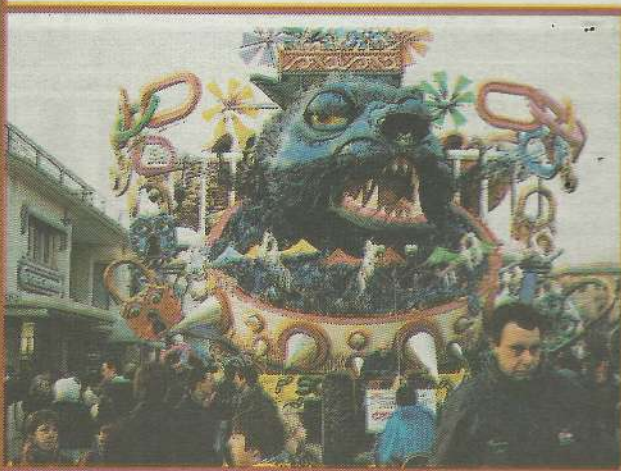
Junior Registration in Soccer – are coming up for the next three weekends at individual soccer club playing grounds. Please take note of the advertised dates, times and place published by the Illawarra Junior Soccer Association.

Registrations are taken from all ages – U/6's to U/9's for Roo-Ball games and U/10's to U/18's in competitions. Girls are encouraged to register for all age groups especially U/12's to U/16's.

Requirements on day of registration are 1 photo passport size. For all to register for the first time they will need to show proof of age and proof of residential address plus a photo. For further information please contact Administration Officer on phone 4283 5777 during normal office hours.

Last year close to 7500 soccer kids registered and even more are expected this coming soccer season.

"Viareggio Carnevale 2002"



AUSTRALIAN CLUB SIDE, LEICHHARDT TIGERS' travelled last Saturday morning to the historic tiny township of Pisa, made famous by the Leaning Tower which only recently has had its foundations structurally reinforced in a drastic attempt to prevent it from tilting over at a cost of some \$40 million.

Built in 1170, the Tower is adjacent to the magnificent Cathedral of Santa Maria.

The squad after an extensive sightseeing walk around Pisa, had lunch and then travelled to the nearby ground to play Pisa's Youth team in the afternoon in a gruelling battle that ended in a 1-1 draw (see match report next page).

Last Sunday afternoon the Aussie squad were guests at the annually held spectacular and vividly colourful Viareggio Carnevale.

Staged annually since 1873 on the very wide and picturesque waterfront promenade, this unbelievable spectacle sees a multitude of highly attractive and gloriously coloured Floats dragged along by small tractors.

Viareggio which has a population of some 60,000, sees over 100,000 visitors come flooding into this tiny township from all over Europe, purely to witness this fabulous, laboriously produced production.

World War I almost destroyed this wonderful Carnevale from its continuity.

The towering colourful giant Floats as they stretch up to reach for the sky, mysteriously and totally defy the Laws of Gravity, leaving

The leaning Tower of Pisa, which attracted lots of tourists and is just a stone's throw from Viareggio.

one and all mystified how these giant mobile structures don't tilt over as they meander their way ever-so slowly through the sea of crowd, most who themselves attend with colourful costumes.



The Viareggio Carnevale is Europe's biggest, and the World's second largest, behind Brasil's Mardi Gras.

The Leichhardt Tigers' squad spent three most enjoyable hours totally captivated by the Carnevale.

Coach John Romeo was stunned for the first half hour by the parade as he struggled to accept what his eyes were transmitting to his tactical brain.

Meanwhile the Tigers' well-spoken goalkeeper Murray Nelson, stated to reporters: "The entire Carnevale was just

incredible with those giant, colourful Floats which are universally and easily understood by all the people. hav-

ing a great time smiling and laughing. Just incredible."

"I'm just very pleased that all our players have been presented with the golden opportunity to witness

such a World class spectacle of this magnitude. "Stunning, exhilarating and mind-boggling is the only way to describe this fabulous event."



MURRAY NELSON: Goalkeeper of Australian side, Leichhardt Tigers.



Australia's Leichhardt Tigers At Viareggio Tournament 2002



Deportivo Espaniol (Arg) 0 Leichhardt Tigers 0

Australian youth side, Leichhardt Tigers in preparation for the ongoing youth Tournament in Viareggio, Italy, which starts tonight (A.E.S.T.), forced a goalless draw in a friendly hit-out against Argentine side, Deportivo Espaniol last Tuesday on a wet and sandy pitch.

Starting for the Aussies was new striker, Rhys Graham. Born and raised in Perth, young Graham impressed

everyone with his high-work rate, in his debut-match for the Tigers.

The South Americans were technically superior but just couldn't handle the hard grinding tackling by the Tigers who were spearheaded by captain Tom Corte.

The Coach of the young Australians, John Romeo lined up with a cautious 3-1-5-1 system that the Argentinians found hard to break down.



John-Paul Boutros: The Tigers' sweeper.

Pisa Youth 1 Leichhardt Tigers 1

In the Australians' fourth & final friendly match before the Italian-Viareggio Tournament kicks off tonight the young Australian team had to battle for their lives to force a 1-1 draw against Pisa last Saturday on a dreadful muddy pitch.

Disaster struck the Aussies on the hour mark when a Pisa free-kick 25 meters out broke the Tigers' wall, then took two wicked deflections before flashing into the opposite left corner.

The Tigers were now wounded and at their most dangerous against their much older opponents. In the last 15 minutes

Leichhardt's coach John Romeo threw two extra strikers into the attack in desperation to at least equalise and remain undefeated.

Raid after raid was launched and five minutes from the bell Francesco Zarrella beat his defender on the left and the goal-keeper with an angled drive which stuck in the goal-line. But powerhouses striker Rhys Graham raced in to slam into the target and look up the scores.

Tigers' best performers were Libero John-Paul Boutros, Robbie Younis who rocked the cross bar in the 35th minute, Centre-backs Daniel Cunningham and Pascal Julliard.

Viareggio U/19s 0 Leichhardt Tigers 1

In another friendly match before the Viareggio Tournament, which kicks off tonight (A.E.S.T.), the Leichhardt Tigers from Sydney, Australia who are in Italy for the Viareggio Tournament defeated Viareggio 0-1 last Wednesday

A fabulous goal by striker, Robert Younis 10 minutes from fulltime. A long flat, bending ball blasted by midfielder, Damien Catalano, split two defenders to find Rockie Restuccia out wide on the left. Restuccia latched onto the ball to clip a lovely cross to the penalty spot where Younis

came steaming in to blast into the target.



John Romeo: Tiger's coach.

The Australians' coach John Romeo stated after the game: "It was the scrappy game played on a dreadfully-bumpy pitch."

In reality the scoreline should have been 1-3 at half-time as the young Australian striker Rhys Graham, twice came perilously close to scoring and a blatant penalty was denied when was cut down well inside the box.

Viareggio late in the game adopted rough tactics in play but the Australians stood their ground.

Last Thursday the Australians travelled north to the city of Florence for some wonderful sightseeing.

Deportivo Espaniol (Colombia) 0 Leichhardt Tigers (Aust.) 1

A goal scored five minutes before fulltime by Australian substitute Damien Catalano Lifted the Tigers from Sydney, Australia to a 1-0 win over Colombian side Deportivo Espaniol in Leichhardt's 3rd friendly match before the start of the Viareggio Tournament.

Striker Robert Younis, broke through on the right side, beat a Colombian defender to blast a flat, cross into the boss off the bi-line for Catalano to deflect into the target.

Colombia fielding many reserves, struggled to hold the robust Australians and just after halftime they brought on another five players of their 1st team. But the Aussie side lifted the pressure as the South Americans started to buckle.

Best for young Aussie side were their three central defenders in Pascal Julliard, Daniel Cunningham and John Paul Boutros, plus the excellent creativity from midfielders Francesco Zarrella and Robbie Younis.



Francesco Zarrella.

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4	GROUP 5
A.C. MILAN	NAPOLI	TORINO	FIorentina	VICENZA
FEYENOORD (HOLLAND)	BELASICA STRUMICA (MACEDONIA)	TERNANA	F.C. UTA ARAD (ROMANIA)	PIACENZA
SALERNITANA	CASTEL DI SANGRIO	REGGINA	VERONA	CITTADELLA PADOVA
NEW YORK (USA)	GERATION FOOT (SENEGAL)	INDIPENDIENTE SANTE FE' (COLOMBIA)	SANTA CATARINA (BRASIL)	LEICHHARDT TIGERS (AUSTRALIA)
GROUP 6	GROUP 7	GROUP 8	GROUP 9	GROUP 10
ROMA	INTER MILAN	JUVENTUS	ATALANTA	BRESCIA
BAYERN MUNICH (GERMANY)	STELLA ROSSA (YUGOSLAVIA)	PARMA	ANDRELECHT (BELGIUM)	SLAVIA PRAHA (REP. CECA)
PERUGIA	LAZIO	BARI	EMPOLI	PALERMO
DESPORTIVO CAPIXABA (BRASIL)	GREAT AFRICAN STARS (GHANA)	PUMAS UNAM (MEXICO)	MACCABI HAIFA (ISRAEL)	C. DEPORTIVO ESPANIOI (ARGENTINA)

NEW SOUTH WALES PREMIER LEAGUE

www.nswpremierleague.com



FEATURE MATCH

Fairfield Bulls

VS

St George Saints

KICK-OFF: 7pm & 5pm, Saturday 2 February 2002

VENUE: Nineveh Field, 673 Smithfield Road, Edensor Park

It's been a tough January for Bulls' Coach Craig Sharpley who has seen the best and worst of his side at various stages through the month.

Shellacked by Parramatta Eagles in Round 10 they bounced back against Penrith before last weekend's match up with Leichhardt. But still, they hang tenaciously to a spot in the Top Five desperate for some more points to keep them there.

Ex Lincoln City and Leeds United midfielder Richard Harrison knows only too well, the Bulls can't afford any more slip ups if they are to finish in the Top Five. "We have been going very well on the training pad-dock," said Harrison.

"The team has 16 top players all fighting for a starting spot and that has been great for the team. We played poorly against Parramatta but we showed against Penrith we can play

quality football, and that was very pleasing."

Stewart Van Buntum is back from a short honeymoon while Jason Connolly and Adam Snyder have also returned to the starting eleven after missing some matches.

"Competition for spots is fierce and that means if you have a poor game you could well end up on the bench," said Harrison.

"St George won't be easy but with our sort of squad, I am quite confident we can do a job on them and pick up the three points."

St George is still to post their first win of the season and a trip to Nineveh Field won't be an easy Saturday night out. After posting two draws against Canterbury and Central Coast, the Saints have been beaten by Belconnen and Parramatta Eagles in recent weeks, which hasn't helped the side's cause.

Former Sydney Olympic sweeper Angelo Petratos feels his side, with an ounce of luck, could well surprise this week.

"We are creating a lot of chances," said Petratos, "but we are struggling to convert them. We are playing some good soccer but just can't manage to find the net and that is costing us any chance of winning."

The Saints will also be at full strength with no major injury concerns. "We are improving and getting better as a unit but we must take our chances," conceded Petratos. "There are no easy games in the Premier League and Fairfield will be tough, but if we get a little luck and take our chances I believe we are more than capable of causing an upset."

Round Two result: St George 2 (Own Goal, Fotiadis) - Fairfield Bulls 3 (Snyder, Hoenselaars, Connolly)

SQUADS

BULLS: 1. Frank Mikuletic, 3. Mathew Dihm, 4. Paul Bourke, 6. Paul Richardson, 7. Ray Younis, 8. Stewart Van Buntum, 9. Marc Hoenselaars, 10. Mathew Borg, 11. Richard Harrison, 12. Tom Maric, 13. Adam Snyder, 14. Ismael Arrarte, 16. Andy Ravanello, 17. Craig Sharpley, 19. Jason Connolly, 20. Ali Akbal, 21. Fernando Pellegrino.
Coach: Craig Sharpley

SAINTS: 1. Stacy Alogdellis, 2. Mark Barlamis, 3. Nick Boliantitis, 4. Angelo Petratos, 5. Max Sevares, 6. Spyros Kladis, 7. George Maglis, 8. Bruno Beddoni, 9. Achilleas Markopoulos, 11. John Fotiadis, 12. Fabio Macolino, 13. Nabil Codmani, 14. Steven Papadopoulos, 15. Nick Mandic, 16. Simon Verrender, 17. Manny Spanoudakis, 18. Sal Zullo, 19. Mladen Damjanovic, 21. Brad Campbell, 22. John Christou, 23. Joshua Ruto.
Coach: Manny Spanoudakis

Fairfield dangerman, Adam Snyder.

Fairfield Bulls are proudly sponsored by the Nineveh Sports and Community Club

PREMIER LEAGUE

ROUND 13

Friday February 1 1st Grade U19
C'bury M'ville v S'land Sharks Henson Park 8:00pm 6:00pm

Saturday February 2
Fairfield Bulls v St George Nineveh Field 7:00pm 5:00pm
Penrith Panthers v L'hardt Tigers Lambert Park 7:00pm **
Bankstown City v Belconnen BD Jensen Park 6:30pm 4:30pm
Central Coast v Blacktown City Pluim Park 7:00pm 5:00pm

Sunday February 3
P'matta Eagles v Bonnyrigg WE Melita Stadium 6:30pm 4:30pm
**Grade 19 to play Wed 13th March at 7:15pm Lambert Park

ROUND 14

Friday February 8 1st Grade U19
C'bury M'ville v Penrith Panthers Henson Park 8:00pm 6:00pm
St George v Leichhardt Tigers St George Std 8:00pm 6:00pm

Saturday February 9
Bonnyrigg WE v Fairfield Bulls Serbian Centre 7:00pm 5:00pm
Bankstown City v P'matta Eagles Jensen Park 7:00pm 5:00pm
Blacktown City v Belconnen BD Gabbie Stadium 6:30pm 4:30pm
S'land Sharks v Central Coast Pluim Park 7:00pm 5:00pm

NEWS FLASH!!

Belconnen handed Bonnyrigg their first defeat of the season on Saturday night.
Match Report on page 24.



The Cafe La Scala Player of the Week after Round 12 of the NSW Premier League is:



Malcolm Meilak
Parramatta Eagles

Cafe La Scala is located at Shop 32, Piazza Level, Italian Forum, 23 Norton St, Leichhardt. Phone: (02) 9572 8577



Inside ... Inside ...

- From The SidelinesP20
- Bankstown City Lions in focus.....P21
- Scoreboard & Picture GalleryP22
- Match Reports.....P24-25



NSW Premier League



PREVIEW ROUND THIRTEEN

Canterbury Marrickville Olympic return to Henson Park



C'bury-M'ville VS Sutherland Sharks



KICK-OFF: 8pm & 6pm, Friday 1 February 2002

VENUE: Henson Park, Sydenham Rd/Centennial St, Marrickville

A new coach and a new lease on life, that's seemingly the story coming from Henson Park where new Coach Laki Konistis has led the Berries turnaround.

After a win and a draw in recent starts the Berries are still an outside chance for a Top Five berth but they must knock over Sutherland to give themselves every possible opportunity of achieving that aim.

But the Sharks won't be an easy commodity. They have shed their 'easy beats' tag in recent weeks posting two draws against Blacktown and Penrith and will definitely be more than nuisance value this weekend.

Round Two Result: Sutherland Sharks 2 (Karanasos x2) - C'bury-M'ville 3 (Paradisio pen, Pillemer, Kotsopoulos)

SQUADS

OLYMPIC: 1. Les Bihari, 2. Greg Collins, 3. Christian Ortiz, 4. John Manolopoulos, 5. Mark D'Alessandro, 6. Andy Amegashie, 7. Con Paradisio, 8. Yane Talceviski, 9. Mark Beldham, 11. Aheleas Kotsopoulos, 12. John Pillemer, 13. Huseyin Bayhan, 14. Mite Talceviski, 15. Emmanuel Papageorgiou, 16. Angelo Markopoulos, 17. Marcelo Guerrero, 18. Ali Salim, 19. Michael Kiadis, 20. Tristan Tulloch, **Coach:** Laki Konistis

SHARKS: 1. Dennes Olla, 2. Peter Feehan, 3. Alen Stajic, 4. David O'Han, 5. Ben Short, 6. Dean Heffernan, 7. Jamie Danaskos, 8. Monte Pfrengle, 9. Alex Pfrengle, 10. Steve Cklamovski, 11. Kris Karanasos, 12. Dean Spresian, 13. Ambrose Mancia, 14. Andy Watts, 15. Colin McAusland, 16. Kire Josevski, 17. Bill Petrovski, 20. Sam LaMacchia, 21. Mitchell Blowes, **Coach:** Billy McColi

Canterbury Marrickville Olympic is proudly sponsored by Olympic Airways & Meraklis Tailors



Penrith Panthers VS Leichhardt Tigers



KICK-OFF: 7pm (1st Grade only), Saturday 2 February 2002**

VENUE: Lambert Park, Marion St, Leichhardt

****Grade 19 to play Wednesday 13 March at 7.15pm at Lambert Park**

Underestimate the Panthers at your own peril. Penrith haven't won a game since Round One but continue to offer stubborn resistance in the lower half of the competition table.

While the Top Five looks to be out of the question a vocal home crowd will be sure to test the Panthers mettle in a game that could go either way.

Leichhardt will have Michael Galluzzo back on deck from an ankle injury and his inclusion could well tip the scales in favour of the visitors.

Round Two Result: Leichhardt Tigers 2 (Picken, Livingstone) - Penrith Panthers (Hutchinson x2)

SQUADS

PANTHERS: 1. Chad Taylor, 2. Jon Hawkins, 3. Chris Giometti, 4. Glenn Meilak, 5. Ben Wright, 6. Daniel Wells, 7. Dave Gardiner, 8. Paul Marosevic, 9. Rod Hutchinson, 10. Osvaldo El Ali, 11. Luke O'Connell, 12. Christian Lima, 13. Jason Sciberras, 14. Wayne Berrigan, 15. Danny Hinton, 17. Shane Hammond, 18. Gustavo Orcajo, 20. Tim O'Connell, 21. Ryan Noble, 25. Marty McCaffery, 26. Luke Boyd, 24. Kurt Van Arkels, **Coach:** Tony Rassmussen

TIGERS: 1. Andrew Crews, 2. Kelvin Foster, 3. Joe Moric, 4. Ross Kethel, 5. Steven Livingstone, 6. Michael Galluzzo, 7. Joe Bruni, 8. James Stubbs-Mills, 9. Allan Picken, 10. Steve Karavatakis, 11. Sam La Rocca, 12. Jeremy Brown, 13. Andrew Falas, 15. Ryan Jones, 16. Anthony Tesoro, 17. Jason Lal, 20. John Paul Boutros, 23. Derek Poimer, **Coach:** Les De Celis

PENRITH PANTHERS are proudly sponsored by Panther's World of Entertainment, Allied Pickfords Business Relocations, Prospect Credit Union, Wizard Home Loans, Soul Sports, Bonus Plus (Panthers World of Entertainment), Panarottis Pizza Pasta (Main Lobby, Panthers World of Entertainment), Penrith Press, Hawkesbury Radio 89.7



Bankstown City Lions VS Belconnen Blue Devils



KICK-OFF: 6.30pm & 4.30pm, Saturday 2 February 2002

VENUE: Jensen Park, Clapham St, Sefton

Lions' Coach Ljube Jancev is riding the crest of a wave having dropped just one match in five since his return to Jensen Park.

He faces a tough game this week, but with Bankstown now playing some attractive possession football this game is there for the taking.

Belconnen are now entrenched in the Top Five and have replaced Steve Lazzari with Marko 'Mad Max' Perinovic on the forward line. His inclusion will give the Blue Devils a very capable target man sure to test the stamina of the Lions defence.

Round Two Result: Belconnen Blue Devils 2 (Lazzari, Macor) - Bankstown City Lions 3 (Trposki x2, MacDonald)

SQUADS

LIONS: 1. Zlatko Josevski, 2. Sefer Yildiz, 3. Richard Luksic, 4. Bryan Raeburn, 5. Anthony Kanaan, 6. Paul Wearne, 7. George Issa, 8. Robert Issa, 9. Goce Trposki, 10. Iain MacDonald, 11. Alex Trposki, 12. Adam Mammoliti, 13. Saso Boskovski, 14. Freddy Umil, 15. Damien Luksic, 16. Colin Luff, 17. Steven Dimitrievski, 18. Dong-Ki Kim, 19. Robert Angievski, 20. Cem Akilli, 21. Darren Iocca, 22. Leo Carle, **Coach:** Ljube Jancev

BLUE DEVILS: 1. Anthony Giannasca, 2. Toplica Popovich, 3. Matthew Cachia, 4. Elliot Zwangobani, 5. Nic Purdue, 6. Shane Lyons, 8. Michael Katz, 9. John Rakic, 10. Daniel Macor, 11. David Arranz, 12. Jaime Mauro, 13. Stewart Camara, 14. Marko Perinovic, 15. Adrian Dowling, 16. Oscar Zamora, 17. Stephen Kemp, 18. David Milin, 19. Daniel Camara, 20. Rade Kosanovic, **Coach:** Lino Fiorese

BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS are proudly sponsored by The Good Guys @ Bankstown, ASU - All Sewn Up, New Tech Automotive, Direct Smash Repairs, G.Mack & Co. Accountants, Alex Electrical, Bucinski Accounting Enterprises, BP Yagoona, I&V Plaster, D&S Gyprock, Australiers, M&S Variety, Australian Mortgage Options, P&E Landscaping & Maintenance, D&V Building Supplies, Bexley North Cellars



Central Coast Coasties VS Blacktown City Demons



KICK-OFF: 7pm & 5pm, Saturday 2 February 2002

VENUE: Pluim Park, Tuggerah St, Lisarow (Central Coast)

This game is D-Day for the Coasties. After a run of seven games without a win, this is the moment of truth for Coach Dale Eggleton and his charges.

If they are to make a run for the Top Five they must knock over last season's Premiers and take that next step. Blacktown will be equally as desperate having not won a game since December 7th.

An unbeaten run of three games, all hard fought draws, is encouraging but the pressure is on for the Demons to start producing some wins in order to put themselves back into the Top Five

Round Two Result: Blacktown City 4 (Donev, Nikas x2, Iocca) - Central Coast 0

SQUADS

COASTIES: 1. Matthew Collits, 2. Sean Matthews, 3. Marc Falzon, 4. Danny Burt, 5. Mitchell Daley, 6. Dane Hokin, 7. Peter Preston, 8. Adam Peatey, 9. Damien Smith, 10. Mick Williams, 11. Karl Freeman, 12. Peter Leary, 13. Peter Ritchie, 14. Andrew Clark, 15. Gary Wilson, 22. Darren Moore, **Coach:** Dale Eggleton

DEMONS: 1. John Crawley, 2. Paul Yates, 3. Damien Foxe, 4. Peter Sermanni, 5. Ben Willard, 6. Damon Langan, 7. Paul Dee, 8. Michael Smith, 9. Kain Rastall, 10. Naoki Imaya, 11. Jim Nikas, 12. Zlatko Donev, 13. Steve Riches, 14. David Reid, 15. Mark Hagger, 16. Patrick Gatt, 17. Luciano Berbis, 18. Graeme O'Donnell, 19. Chad Lewis, 20. James Wilkinson, **Coach:** Brian Brown

CENTRAL COAST COASTIES are proudly sponsored by the Central Coast Leagues Club



NSW Premier League



FROM THE SIDELINES *with Greg Stock and Paul Goodwin*

Sutherland Sharks young forward Matthew Gordon, a fortnight ago went to England to seek a dream contract with a professional club.

After being one of two players sent on a subsidised trip to Middlesbrough last year, the 16 year old striker was this time invited for trials at Division One clubs Sheffield Wednesday and Millwall.

Former PARRAMATTA EAGLES favourite Ballamodou Conde is embarking on his third season in the Singapore 'S League'; this coming season he is linking with fellow Australian Hrvoje Matkovic at title-fancies Singapore Armed Forces (SAFFC).

Ballamodou Conde has spent the last two seasons with Gombak United and the exciting, dread-locked former NSW Super League star hopes to figure in a championship winning team after playing with the less ambitious Gombak, whose tight budget meant that they were forever struggling to make the top 5 or 6.

SAFFC finished 2nd in the S-League and 3rd in the Singapore Cup last season and begin their season with a home game against Tampines Rovers on 22 February.

The 12-team league is fighting to maintain a high profile in the face of

Soccer does its bit to support the community



Blacktown City Soccer Club President Ken Schembri and CEO Garry Felton, during Blacktown City Demons' recent match against Bonnyrigg, presented a cheque to the amount of \$33,500 to several charities in their local community area as a part of the Club's Community Development Levy responsibilities.

Pictured on the hallowed turf of Gabbie Stadium are (left to right): Ken Schembri-President of Blacktown City Soccer Club, (Representatives from) 2nd Seven Hills Scout Group, Blacktown City Community Theatre Group, Blacktown Salvation Army, Federal Member for Greenway-Frank Mossfield, Garry Felton - CEO of Blacktown City Soccer Club.

a much stronger neighbouring Malaysian League which has begun to entice a string of quality players across from the S-League with the promise of bigger crowds and higher match payments.

The respective qualities of the two leagues is a contentious issue; for example the powerful

Sarawak side recently played Tampines Rovers and was soundly beaten 3-0, yet on the same tour the island state defeated Geylang United 2-1.

The Malaysian League kicked off on Saturday 26th January.

The Guinea-born Conde is the kind of player who could well attract the attention of the more

successful M-League clubs in the future.

The Belconnen Blue Devils are unhappy to report that Elia Salloum and Lee Pietrukowski have both decided to retire from playing Premier League soccer for the 2001-2002 season.

Both players have provided important contributions to the Blue Devils and will be sorely missed. Elia Salloum (4 games and no goals) has decided to put all his energy into maintaining his place in the Australian Futsal team. Lee Pietrukowski (16 games and no goals) will return to the ACT League after a break and has stated that he could be returning to the Blue Devils next season.

The Belconnen Blue Devils have added a new player to their team with the signing of defender David Milin. Milin comes with a wealth of experience having played with the Canberra Cosmos in the National League.



Parramatta Eagles VS Bonnyrigg WE



KICK-OFF: 6.30pm & 4.30pm, Sunday 3 February 2002
VENUE: Melita Stadium, Everley Rd, South Granville

This game is the one the punters have been waiting all season long for and is arguably a preview for the title decider later in the year.

A capacity crowd is expected to cram into Melita Stadium with the league title all but on the line.

The Eagles have racked up some healthy scores in the past few weeks, scoring thirteen goals and conceding just four since the Christmas break.

They have the ability to really take a team apart if given some space, with Mondello, Bakis and Cummins all capable of scoring goals given half a chance.

But Bonnyrigg are the league leaders and they have dropped just one game all season a 1-3 loss to Belconnen last weekend. Javier Mancino is out with

injury and he is expected to be the only casualty in a game that is already being billed as the "match of the season".

Much of the White Eagles chances will rest with Gomez, Aschner and Knight and they too will fancy their chances.

SQUADS

EAGLES: 1. Jason Holmes, 2. Daniel Borg, 3. Geoff Dwyer, 4. Malcolm Meilak, 5. Mark Reveley, 6. Mirko Jurilj, 7. Mauricio Islas, 8. Daniel Kukucka, 9. Anthony Mondello, 10. Tony Mittiga, 11. Jim Bakis, 13. Paul O'Grady, 12. Glenn Spod, 14. Stephen Chipps, 15. Ben Delicata, 16. Geoff Howarth, 19. Daniel Cummins, 21. Joel Morgan, **Coach:** Tam Finlayson

WHITE EAGLES: 1. Fernando Greco, 2. Sasha Utjesenovic, 4. Bobby Dragas, 5. Tayfun Devrimol, 6. Vuko Tomasevic, 7. Javier Mancino, 8. David Harding, 9. Shane Knight, 10. Christopher Bradley, 11. Johnny Ghisso, 13. Robert Gomez, 14. Leigh Gunn, 15. Peter Klamovski, 16. Michael Hawrysiuk, 17. Jimmy Aschner, 18. John Kyriazopoulos, 20. David Aceski, 22. Rajko Mandic, 23. Devrim Huseyin, **Coach:** Greg Woodhouse

PARRAMATTA EAGLES are proudly sponsored by Parramatta Leagues Club & Bank of Valletta

NEW SOUTH WALES PREMIER LEAGUE

PRODUCTION: Arvind Hickman, Emma Nwaneri, Elly Vea, Mary Quartly
CO-ORDINATOR: Binesh Mudaliar
WRITERS: Greg Stock, Paul Goodwin, Claire Killeen, Lezette Isaac, Ray Sandell, Nick Guoth, Robbie Bartolillo, Gary Vandeburgt
PHOTOGRAPHY: Carlos Furtado
★ All information is courtesy of the New South Wales Soccer Federation.
NSWSF
Valentine Sports Park
235-257 Meurants Lane
GLENWOOD NSW 2768
Phone: (02) 9629 1800



NSW Premier League



CLUB FOCUS

Mama, Wearnie, Lemon and Goose

Profiled by Claire Killeen & Lezette Isaac

Adam Mammoliti

DATE OF BIRTH - 18/8/1975
BIRTH PLACE - Sydney
WEIGHT - 73kg
HEIGHT - 176cm
NICKNAME - Mama
MARITAL STATUS - Engaged
PLAYING POSITION - Midfield/wing back
YEAR JOINED CLUB - 2001
JUNIOR CLUB - Fairfield Bulls
FAVOURITE MUSICIAN - Bob Sinclair
FAVOURITE TV SHOW - X-Files
FAVOURITE MOVIE - Vanished
FAVOURITE FOOD - Meat pie
FAVOURITE SPORTING ICON - Steve Waugh
GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR LIFE - Parents
GREATEST MOMENT - 1992 first division win with the Fairfield Bulls
2002 AMBITION - Maintain position in first grade team, playing to my best ability and score a few goals
MOST RESPECTED OPPONENT - Mathew Borg (Fairfield Bulls)
WHICH TEAM WILL WIN 2002 WORLD CUP - Italy
WHO DO YOU RATE AS THE BEST SOCCER PLAYER IN THE WORLD - Harry Kewell
IF YOU COULD PLAY IN ANY COMPETITION IN THE WORLD, WHICH



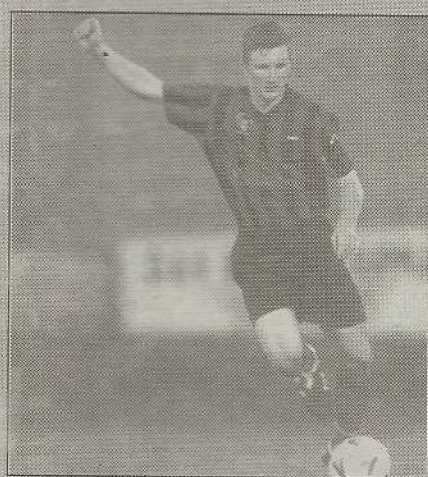
WOULD IT BE - Premier League
INTERESTS AWAY FROM SOCCER - Gym, fishing, golf and partying
MOST ANNOYING HABIT - Twirling my hair
IF YOU COULD PICK AN ACTOR TO PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE WHO WOULD IT BE - Brad Pitt
IF YOU COULD TAKE 3 THINGS ON A DESERTED ISLAND WHAT WOULD THEY BE - Kylie, pet bird and pet dog
WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 10 YEARS TIME - Coaching
HOW WOULD YOU SPEND YOUR LAST 10 DOLLARS - Put a bet on Tottenham to win the Premier League
2002 NEW YEARS RESOLUTION - Don't have one!

Paul Wearnie

AGE - 21
DATE OF BIRTH - 14/3/80
NICKNAME - Wearnie
POSITION - Left stopper, centre-midfield, left wing back
HEIGHT - 6ft 1
WEIGHT - 82kg
PREVIOUS CLUBS - Eastern Pride, Northern Spirit, NSW Institute of Sport, Parramatta Melita Eagles, Marconi
WHAT IS YOUR BEST SOCCER MEMORY - Representing Australia at Youth level
IF YOU WERE NOT A FOOTBALLER, WHAT WOULD YOU BE DOING - Police officer
AGE, WHEN YOU STARTED PLAYING - Seven
MOST EMBARRASSING SOCCER MEMORY - Scoring an own goal
HOW DO YOU RELAX - Go out with friends.
BEST ADVICE YOU'VE EVER BEEN GIVEN - Always to have confidence in yourself
FAVOURITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL - Physical Education
WORST SUBJECT IN SCHOOL - French
FAVOURITE MUSIC - R&B, dance
LAST BOOK THAT YOU READ - Police ethics
FAVOURITE MOVIE - Oceans 11
FAVOURITE MOVIE STAR - Catherine Zeta Jones
FAVOURITE TV SHOW - Champions League highlights



DREAM CAR - The latest Holden
FAVOURITE FOOD - Anything
FAVOURITE DRINK - Cascade Premium light
WHAT ARE YOU GOOD AT COOKING - Toast
ON A PLANE FOR 24 HOURS, WHO WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO SIT NEXT TO - Michael Katz from the Belconnen Blue Devils
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER - Family



Richard Luksic

DATE OF BIRTH - 7/1/1978
BIRTH PLACE - Sydney
WEIGHT - 84kg
HEIGHT - 191cm
NICKNAME - Lemon
MARITAL STATUS - Girlfriend
PLAYING POSITION - Sweeper
YEAR JOINED CLUB - 1997
JUNIOR CLUB - Hornsby
FAVOURITE MUSICIAN - Powderfinger
FAVOURITE TV SHOW - Seinfeld
FAVOURITE MOVIE - Shawshank Redemption

FAVOURITE FOOD - Pasta
FAVOURITE SPORTING ICON - Maradona
GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR LIFE - Father
GREATEST MOMENT - Being Captain for Bankstown in the first match
2002 AMBITION - Make the Top 5
MOST RESPECTED OPPONENT - Robert Gomez (Bonnyrigg)
WHICH TEAM WILL WIN 2002 WORLD CUP - Argentina
WHO DO YOU RATE AS THE BEST SOCCER PLAYER IN THE WORLD - Zidane
IF YOU COULD PLAY IN ANY COMPETITION IN THE WORLD WHICH WOULD IT BE - Italian League
INTERESTS AWAY FROM SOCCER - Golf and most other sports
MOST ANNOYING HABIT - ?
IF YOU COULD PICK AN ACTOR TO PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE WHO WOULD IT BE - Edward Norton
IF YOU COULD TAKE 3 THINGS ON A DESERTED ISLAND WHAT WOULD THEY BE - Girlfriend, fishing rod and food
WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 10 YEARS TIME - Still at the club as captain of the side
HOW WOULD YOU SPEND YOUR LAST 10 DOLLARS - Lottery ticket
2002 NEW YEARS RESOLUTION - To concede as few goals as possible



Goe Trposki

AGE - 21
DATE OF BIRTH - 19/11/80
NICKNAME - Goose
POSITION - Striker
HEIGHT - 173cm
WEIGHT - 75kg
PREVIOUS CLUBS - Rockdale, Sydney United, Sutherland

WHAT IS YOUR BEST SOCCER MEMORY - Scoring a winning goal in extra time
IF YOU WERE NOT A FOOTBALLER, WHAT WOULD YOU BE DOING - A stripper
AGE, WHEN YOU STARTED PLAYING - Nine
MOST EMBARRASSING SOCCER MEMORY - Scoring an own goal
HOW DO YOU RELAX - Go out with friends, music, beach
BEST ADVICE YOU'VE EVER BEEN GIVEN - Just listen, don't talk too much
FAVOURITE SUBJECT - Sport
WORST SUBJECT IN SCHOOL - Everything but sport
FAVOURITE MUSIC - U2
LAST BOOK THAT YOU READ - Things Fall Apart - it was in Year 12
FAVOURITE MOVIE - Good Fellas
FAVOURITE MOVIE STAR - Al Pacino, Liz Hurley
FAVOURITE TV SHOW - Crocodile Hunter/ Ali G show
DREAM CAR - Lamborghini Diabolo
FAVOURITE FOOD - Pasta
FAVOURITE DRINK - Water
WHAT ARE YOU GOOD AT COOKING - Pizza
ON A PLANE FOR 24 HOURS, WHO WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO SIT NEXT TO - Anna Kournikova
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER - My parents



NSW Premier League



SCOREBOARD

ROUND 12

PREMIER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

ST GEORGE SAINTS1 (Bruno Beddoni 44m)	PARRAMATTA EAGLES3 (Jim Bakis 19/67m, Malcolm Meilak 25m)
BELCONNEN BD3 (Daniel Macor 17m pen/87m, David Arranz 50m)	BONNYRIGG WE1 (Vuko Tomasevic 24m)
SUTHERLAND SHARKS ..0	PENRITH PANTHERS0
BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS 1 (own goal 7m)	CENTRAL COAST COASTIES 0
BLACKTOWN CITY1 (Zak Donev 81m)	C'BURY-M'VILLE1 (Andy Amegashie 11m)
LEICHHARDT TIGERS3 (Sam La Rocca 49m pen, Derek Poimer 60m/63m)	FAIRFIELD BULLS3 (Mathew Borg 42m, Marc Hoenselaars 70m, Jason Connolly 88m)

UNDER 19

ST GEORGE SAINTS1	PARRAMATTA EAGLES1
BELCONNEN BD5	BONNYRIGG WE3
BANKSTOWN CITY1	CENTRAL COAST COASTIES 4
BLACKTOWN CITY5	C'BURY-M'VILLE0
SUTHERLAND SHARKS ..3	PENRITH PANTHERS3

Please note that the Leichhardt Tigers v Fairfield Bulls match has been rescheduled for Wednesday 27 February, 7pm at Lambert Park

TABLES

FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	12	10	1	1	31	12	31
Parramatta Eagles	12	9	0	3	37	15	27
Leichhardt Tigers	12	7	3	2	23	19	24
Belconnen Blue Devils	12	7	1	4	28	16	22
Fairfield Bulls	12	6	3	3	20	22	21
Blacktown City Demons	12	5	3	4	27	20	18
Bankstown City Lions	12	5	3	4	20	24	18
Canterbury Marrickville	12	3	3	6	14	21	12
Penrith Panthers	12	1	6	5	13	18	9
Central Coast Coasties	12	2	3	7	9	23	9
Sutherland Sharks	12	1	3	8	12	25	6
St George Saints	12	0	3	9	7	26	3

UNDER 19

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Central Coast Coasties	12	9	1	2	32	8	28
Blacktown City Demons	12	8	1	3	29	14	25
Leichhardt Tigers	10	7	1	2	21	7	22
Parramatta Eagles	11	6	2	3	16	12	20
Fairfield Bulls	11	5	3	3	19	17	18
Belconnen Blue Eagles	12	5	2	5	30	27	17
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	12	5	1	6	18	24	16
Penrith Panthers	12	3	4	5	16	17	13
Canterbury Marrickville	12	3	4	5	15	21	13
St George Saints	12	3	4	5	11	22	13
Sutherland Sharks	12	2	1	9	19	36	7
Bankstown City Lions	12	2	0	10	7	28	6

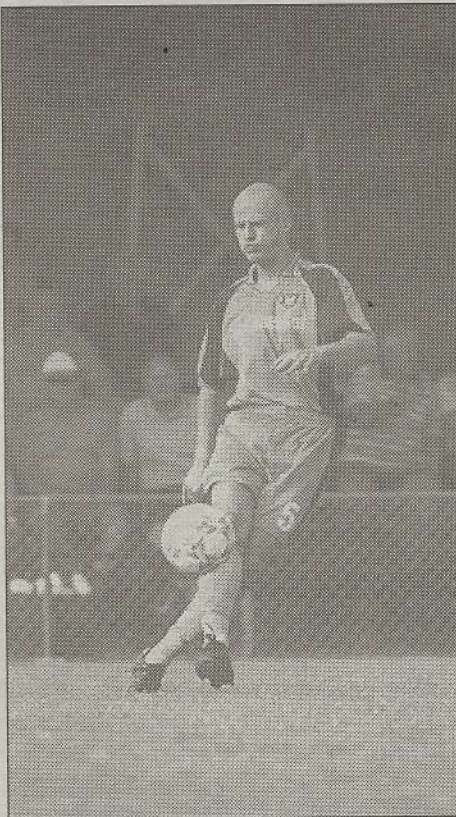
TOP SCORERS

- 12 Jimmy Aschner (BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES)
- 12 Daniel Macor (BELCONNEN BLUE DEVILS)
- 11 Jim Bakis (PARRAMATTA EAGLES)
- 8 Anthony Mondello (PARRAMATTA EAGLES)
- 8 Goce Trposki (BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS)

Leichhardt Tigers in Action



Ross Kethel



Steven Livingstone



Ryan Jones



James Stubbs-Mills (r)



NSW Premier League



COERVER OCEANIA JUNIOR AND SENIOR SQUADS ANNOUNCED

Following the inaugural Adidas Coerver Cup, which was held recently at the home of the New South Wales Soccer Federation, Valentine Sports Park, in Glenwood, (western) Sydney, a senior and junior squad of elite Coerver Coaching exponents have been selected to represent the Oceania region.

The Coerver Oceania Junior squad (made up of 9 and 10 year-olds) will depart for the USA and Canada from 19 July to 7 August (inclusive of dates) for a series of camps and games. The Coerver Oceania Senior Squad (made up of 11, 12 and 13 year-olds) will head to Japan where the highlight of their tour will be competing in a pre-World Cup tournament against the Japan Coerver Academy.

COERVER OCEANIA JUNIOR SQUAD

UNDER 9s:

Terry Antonis of Georges Hall
Jordan Crighton of Minchinbury
Marcus Kilborn of Kellyville
Anthony Lazarou of South Strathfield
Tommy Cirjak of Blacktown
Daniel Goldsmith of Dural
Emily Van Egmond of Newcastle

UNDER 10s:

Daniel Bragg of Acacia Gardens
Adam Jenner of Blacktown
Luis Ponte of Wentworth Falls
Emanuele Sipione of Cook Park
Jacob Ott of St Clair
Adam Parkhouse of Killcare Heights

COERVER OCEANIA SENIOR SQUAD

UNDER 11s:

Roy Galluccio of Edensor Park
Steven Lustica of ACT
Adrian Uccchino of Greystanes
Kosta Mantis of South Australia

UNDER 12s:

Jack Docummun of ACT
Daniel Ferraro of Shellharbour
Ricky Goodchild of Albion Park
Ty Owen of Newcastle

UNDER 13s:

Alexander Hunt of Collaroy
David Rowinski of Bass Hill
Glen Trifiro of Glenwood
Peter Zaikovski of Rockdale
Elizabeth Talarico of Greystanes

GOALKEEPERS

Alex Kalmar (Junior Squad) of Castle Hill
Nicholas Grove (Senior Squad) of Dulwich Hill

COERVER OCEANIA FUNDRAISER

Help our elite Coerver kids compete against the best in the world and invest in the future of Australian Soccer!

The Coerver Oceania Fundraising Function is to be held on
Saturday 6th April 2002

At Pharaohs Function Room

ROOTY HILL RSL

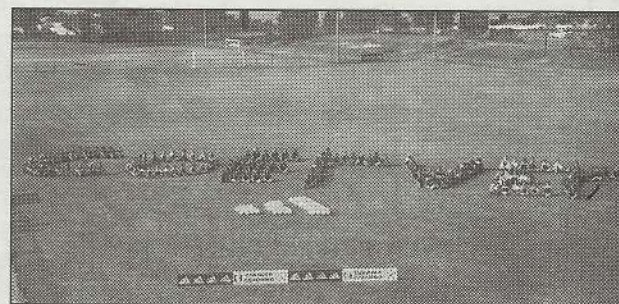
Corner of Sherbrooke and Railway St, ROOTY HILL

7pm-11pm

Dress: Formal

ENTERTAINMENT, GUEST SPEAKERS & SPORTING MEMORABILIA AUCTION

For a chance to become an individual sponsor and network with Australia's leading youth development coaches and sports administrators, please contact Toni Cox on (02) 9629 1800 for more information.



A finale to the Adidas Coerver Cup.

GOLSPORT



FREE
CATALOGUE

Have you got yours?

BOOTS

BALLS

COACHING
EQUIPMENT

TEAM
WEAR

FREE
SOCCER DIARY WORTH \$49.95
WITH EVERY PURCHASE OVER \$100

GOLSPORT
THE NAME
Soccer
the
game

SAQ

Speed Agility Quickness

World-renowned Soccer
Training Programmes
now in Australia

www.golsport.com.au

Tel: 02 9531 6644 Fax: 02 9531 4477

GOL4 12/01



NSW Premier League



St George Saints 1 Parramatta Eagles 3

By Paul Goodwin

Parramatta Eagles made further progress as they begin their second-half-of-the-season challenge to leaders Bonnyrigg, when they effortlessly defeated St George at Bestic Street on Friday night.

They caught the Saints' defence napping in the 19th minute with a quickly taken free kick that looked very well rehearsed and after the home side had pulled a goal back moments before the break, when already two goals down, restored that margin and made sure of the points against a fragile opponent with a second goal from a free kick in the 67th minute.

Jim Bakis was delighted to score twice against his former club and both his goals were from free kicks given away needlessly in front of goal.

In the 19th Bakis was fed a quick through pass by Malcolm Meilak and, unchallenged, was able to find the centre of the net easily from 12 yards.



Malcolm Meilak of Parramatta Eagles: Another influential game.

Bakis turned provider in the 25th after feeding a pass to Geoff Howarth on the right whose pinpoint cross was tucked away nicely by the industrious Meilak.

Bruno Beddoni wound back the clock on his long and illustrious career by scoring his first ever Premier League goal after spending all of last winter in the NSW Second Division with Concord FC. Benefiting from a failed defensive clearance and a flat-footed defence the ex Rockdale and Apia star chipped Parramatta keeper Jason Holmes brilliantly to give his side a fighting chance at the break.

Despite a string of quality saves from their keeper Stacy Alogdellis St George eventually went down 3-1 as Bakis, again, lifted his free kick from 25 yards beyond the wall and into the top left corner of the net in the 67th to quell any thoughts of a late rally by the opposition.

Jade Permall was lively alongside Beddoni in the Saints' attack, but the home defence was never able to cope with Parramatta's skilful front runners and strong showings by Meilak, Bakis, Howarth and Jurilj were the cornerstones of the Eagles' latest win.

St George Saints 1 (B Beddoni 44m)
Parramatta Eagles 3 (J Bakis 19/67m M Meilak 25m)

ST GEORGE: Stacy Alogdellis, Mark Bariamis, Angelo Petratos, Max Sevaes (Mladen Damjanovic 67), George Maglis, Bruno Beddoni, Achilleas Markopoulos (Nick Boliannis 62), Nabil Codmani, Simon Verrender, Brad Campbell, Jade Permall (Sal Zullo 84)

PARRAMATTA EAGLES: Jason Holmes, Geoff Dwyer, Malcolm Meilak, Mark Reveley, Mirko Jurilj, Daniel Kukucka (Ben Delicata 68), Jim Bakis (Anthony Mondello 74), Paul O'Grady, Glenn Sprod, Geoff Howarth (Simon Zahra 87), Daniel Cummins

Cautions: Simon Verrender 84 (SG) and Mark Bariamis 87 (SG)
Referee: Wayne Crabb
Assistants: Andrew Kay and Marc Nemorin
Fourth Official: Jose Da Silva



Belconnen BD 3 Bonnyrigg WE 1

By Gary Vandeburgt

The Belconnen Blue Devils proved they would be Premiership contenders this season after they inflicted the first defeat of the season on defending Champions and Premier League leaders the Bonnyrigg White Eagles.

The Blue Devils overcame their indifferent form at home this season with a dominant performance that saw them record a 3-1 victory at West Belconnen Sports Ground on Saturday night.

Bonnyrigg started strongly and had a couple of chances narrowly miss and a penalty claim waved away before the Blue Devils opened the scoring in the 17th minute.

Stewart Camara sent a ball through to younger brother Daniel, he was brought down by White Eagles defender Sasha Utjesenovic in the penalty area and the referee had no hesitation in pointing to the spot. Daniel Macor slammed home the penalty to give the Blue Devils a 1-0 lead against the run of play.

It took the White Eagles only seven minutes to draw level when Michael Hawrysiuk's corner was headed in by an unmarked Vuko Tomasevic from six metres.

The Blue Devils started to gain the ascendancy late in the first half and Daniel Camara who was a



Belconnen's David Arranz scored his side's second goal against Bonnyrigg.

constant headache to the White Eagles defence was involved in several chances.

Five minutes after the break Camara beat the off-side trap and raced onto a long clearance by Blue Devils keeper Tony Giannasca, with only the keeper to beat Camara passed to David Arranz who scored in an open goal.

As Bonnyrigg pushed forward in search of an equaliser the match swung from end to end and the Blue Devils usually shaky defence looked rock solid.

Bonnyrigg's hopes took a nose-dive in the 79th minute when Shane Knight was sent off after receiving his second yellow card in four minutes.

In the 83rd minute the White Eagles Jimmy Aschner burst through the Blue Devils defence and looked certain to score before a sliding tackle by Shane Lyons won the ball just as Aschner was to shoot.

Four minutes later the Blue Devils put the result beyond doubt when Marko Perinovic put Macor through. He beat one defender and shot into the bottom corner to give the home side a 3-1 lead.

Three minutes into stoppage time Macor should have had his hat-trick. Stewart Camara crossed to Macor at the far post but he blasted over from six metres out leaving the Blue Devils convincing 3-1 victors and cementing their spot in the Top Five.

Belconnen 3 (Macor 17 pen/87, Arranz 50)
Bonnyrigg 1 (Tomasevic 24)

BELCONNEN BLUE DEVILS: Giannasca, Popovich, Cachia (Dowling - 45), Zwangobani, Purdue, Lyons, Macor, Arranz (Katz 52), S Camara, Kemp, D Camara (Perinovic 59)
Cautions: Arranz 47, Popovich 55

BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES: Greco, Utjesenovic, Devrimol, Tomasevic, Harding, Knight, Bradley (Dragas 60), Gomez (Macrae 81), Hawrysiuk (Ghisso 40), Aschner, Huseyin
Cautions: Utjesenovic 16, Tomasevic 30, Aschner 78, Knight 75, 79

Send-offs: Knight 79
Referee: Bill Simeonovic
Assistant Referees: Byron Luck and Stephen Jones
Fourth Official: David Wiebe



Sutherland Sharks 0 Penrith Panthers 0

By Greg Stock

Seymour Shaw Park was no place for the faint hearted on Saturday night with both Sutherland and Penrith fighting out a tough scoreless draw.

With neither side prepared to give an inch it was real last man standing stuff with the points shared evenly from start to finish.

Panthers' Coach Tony Rassmussen elected to start Jason Sciberras and Rod Hutchinson together on the forward line and the move looked to pay dividends as the Panthers poured the pressure on in the early exchanges.

With Tim O'Connell running amok on the right hand touchline, Sutherland goalkeeper Mitchell Blowes was called into action four times in the first twenty minutes to deny the fired-up Panthers.

But just as it seemed the visitors had seized the

initiative, the Sharks defence tightened allowing their opponents little space for the remainder of the match. The busiest person on the park was undoubtedly.

Referee Peter Vrtkovski who handed out eight yellow cards for various over zealous infringements. There was ample evidence to suggest he should have handed out a few more as both sides were guilty of some over zealous tackling that stifled the game to be more of a stop start contest.

Even the experience and guile of veteran striker Osvaldo El Ali off the substitutes bench could not break the deadlock as both sides ground themselves to a standstill searching for a winner.

The Pfrengle brothers tried hard for the Sharks but sadly for the home side Monte Pfrengle picked up his second yellow for pulling down a Panthers player in the 84th minute.

He was followed by Panthers defender Daniel Wells two minutes before time as he too was found

guilty of a second bookable offence, leaving the ledger squared evenly in all departments.

Sutherland Sharks 0
Penrith Panthers 0

SUTHERLAND SHARKS: Mitchell Blowes, Alen Stajcic, Ben Short, Dean Heffernan, Jamie Danaskos (Sam LaMacchia 70), Kris Karanasos, Kire Josevski, Monte Pfrengle, Colin McAusland, Alex Pfrengle (Ambrose Mancia 87)

PENRITH PANTHERS: Chad Taylor, Chris Giometti, Luke Boyd, Daniel Wells, Paul Marosevic, Rod Hutchinson, Luke O'Connell, Jason Sciberras (David Gardiner 87), Martin McCaffery (Osvaldo El Ali 65), Tim O'Connell (Danny Hinton 65), Ryan Noble

Cautions: M. Pfrengle (ss) 14/84, Wells (pp) 24/88, Short (ss) 30, McCaffery (pp) 45, McAusland (ss) 49, LaMacchia (ss) 74
Referee: Peter Vrtkovski
Assistant Referees: Brad McKay and Heidi Breeze
Fourth Official: Michael Johnson



Sutherland Sharks' defender, Ben Short.

NSW Premier League



Blacktown City 1
C'bury-M'ville 1

By Robbie Bartolillo

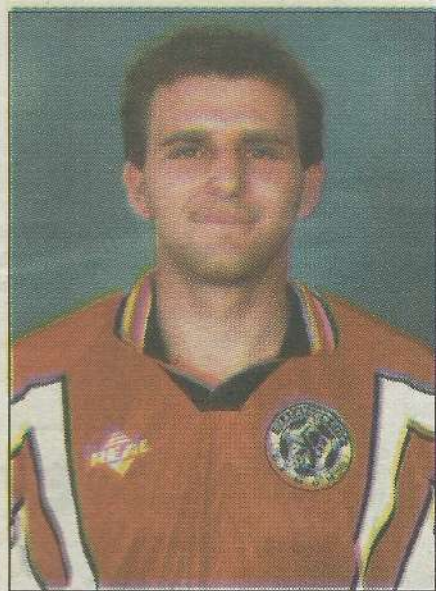
For the second week in succession, Blacktown City Demons were held to a home draw, with the visiting Canterbury Marrickville Berries, providing stubborn resistance in a 1-1 stalemate.

Although the sixth placed Demons looked dangerous early, through the likes of Zlatko Donev and Steve Riches, the tenacious Berries, under new coach Laki Konistis, was the first team to score.

In the 11th minute, against the run of play, and immediately proceeding a clear cut chance to the Demons Damon Langan, twinkled toed striker Andy Amegashie put away a neat pass from attacking partner Aheleas Kotsopoulos, leaving a hapless John Crawley diving in vain.

The shock goal obviously frustrated the home side, who after 10 minutes could've amazingly had four goals, eliminating immediately, any Berries onslaught.

Yet to their credit, the rejuvenated Berries looked extremely comfortable in their game plan, cutting



Zak Donev scored Blacktown City's equaliser in the 81st minute.

down space, and constantly feeding Amegashie and Kotsopoulos direct passes, enabling them to isolate defenders via the counter attack. In particular, defender John Manolopoulos and midfield maestro Greg Collins were inspirational, constantly defying any Blacktown attacking sequence.

At the resumption of play, the Demons dynamic right midfielder, Paul Dee nearly sent the Gabbie Stadium faithful into a frenzy, his spiralling shot somehow repelled by jockey-sized Berries player, John Pillemer. Then in the 72nd minute, following an innovative procession of Demons team work, the unpassable Manolopoulos nearly turned villain, his wayward header just parried to safety, by keeper team-mate, Les Bihari.

Eventually, in the 81st minute, the persistent and much more attacking Demons deservedly drew level, through striker Donev who met a pin point Kain Rastall cross, directing his header passed a stranded Bihari.

At the games completion, Berries Coach Konistis expressed mixed feelings about his teams performance. "I thought the kids battled splendidly well, considering three of our key players were out tonight. It was one game we could've had, but having said that, to their credit, the Demons showed they are a quality team, and deserved the point."

Blacktown City Demons 1 (Z Donev 81m)
Canterbury Marrickville 1 (A Amegashie 11m)

BLACKTOWN: Crawley, Willard, Langan (Nikas 18th), Dee, Rastall, Imaia, Donev, Riches, Reid (Berbis 77th), Hagger, Gatt
CANTERBURY: Bihari, Collins, Manolopoulos (Guerrero 85th), D'Alessandro, Amegashie, Paradisis, Kotsopoulos, Pillemer, Markopoulos, Salim (Papageorgiou 58th), Kladis

Cautions: Hagger (yellow 42nd/ 94th-red), Riches 65th, Rastall 23rd
Referee: Greg Leverton
Officials: Ken Sharp, Peter Verinder, Rob Kofler



Leichhardt Tigers 3
Fairfield Bulls 3

By Paul Goodwin

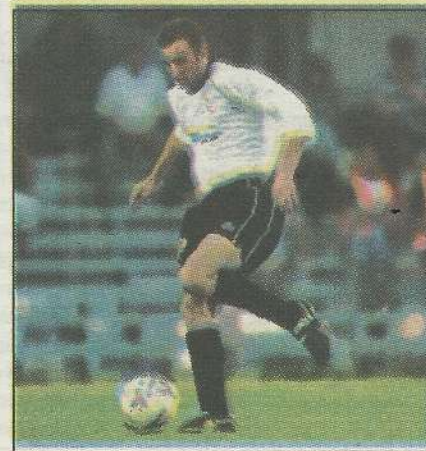
A real needle match at Lambert Park saw the home side, despite being reduced to ten men early in the second half, squander a two goal lead to hang on for only a point from a 3-3 draw, thanks to a late equaliser by Jason Connolly, who moments earlier had been denied by the brilliance of Andrew Crews.

Both goalkeepers blundered at key moments in the game, but Crews was responsible for some important late saves to deny Fairfield a win on a very warm evening where tempers were also at boiling point at various stages.

A lacklustre first half hour gave way to some spirited tackling and with Adam Snyder making some useful runs for the Bulls the visitors were able to take the lead in the 42nd as Snyder laid on a nice through ball for Mathew Borg who beat Crews after the keeper had hesitated in leaving his line and Borg was then able to put the loose ball away easily.

Sam La Rocca put the Tigers level from the penalty spot in the 49th, after Frank Mikuletic had pulled down Andrew Falas, who appeared to be moving away from goal at the edge of the area, after two attempts by the keeper to punch the ball clear had been unsuccessful.

Leichhardt suffered a blow in the 53rd when Steve Karavatakis was dismissed for striking Mikuletic as the ex Tigers' keeper claimed a ball on the ground, but surprisingly it was the home side who got their noses in



Mathew Borg got the ball rolling for the Bulls.

front in the next ten minutes, with the class of Derek Poimer shining like a beacon.

Poimer chased a poor back pass from-inside the Leichhardt half by Bulls' defender Ray Younis and managed to find the net from a very tricky angle, out on the left, as Mikuletic came out to force the former NSL striker wide. Poimer was then able to make it 3-1 in the 63rd after receiving a nicely weighted pass from James Stubbs-Mills, but Fairfield threw men forward and substitute Paul Richardson played a key role in the impressive fight back by the Bulls.

He laid on a pass for Snyder to send over a crisp cross from the right byline that Marc Hoenselaars headed past Crews with ease in the 70th and then continued to push forward, leading to crucial saves by Crews from Andy Ravanello and Connolly, before Connolly found some space in the box after a late Fairfield corner had not been cleared and squeezed a weak shot through a sea of legs to deceive the unsighted Crews and rob Leichhardt of two of their three hard earned points.

Leichhardt Tigers 3 (Sam La Rocca 49m pen, Derek Poimer 60m/63m)
Fairfield Bulls 3 (Mathew Borg 42m, Marc Hoenselaars 70m, Jason Connolly 88m)

LEICHHARDT TIGERS: Andrew Crews, Joe Moric, Ross Kethel, Steven Livingstone, James Stubbs-Mills, Steve Karavatakis, Sam La Rocca, Jeremy Brown, Andrew Falas, Ryan Jones (Allan Picken 68), Derek Poimer

FAIRFIELD BULLS: Frank Mikuletic, Mathew Dihm, Paul Bourke, Ray Younis (Paul Richardson 65), Marc Hoenselaars, Mathew Borg, Richard Harrison (Stewart Van Bentum 65), Tom Maric, Adam Snyder, Andy Ravanello, Jason Connolly

Send off: Steve Karavatakis 53 (LT)
Cautions: Jason Connolly 25 (FB), Ray Younis 30 (FB), Ross Kethel 31 (LT), Matt Dihm 35 (FB), Marc Hoenselaars 50 (FB), Paul Richardson 88 (FB), Tom Maric 90 (FB)
Referee: Craig Pearce
Assistants: David Finlay and Simon Przydacz
Fourth Official: Mark Hester



Bankstown City 1
Central Coast 0

By Ray Sandell

Writing a match report on a game in which the Coasties play is like playing your old, favourite record, the content never varies. In this match it was the same old story for the Coasties...dominate for long periods, play brilliant football at times and yes, fail to convert several goal scoring opportunities, or should I say miss several open goal chances!

In this match they added a new twist. They lost by the only goal of the match and scored the only goal of the match!

Coasties' Coach, Dale Eggleton, gave another one of the club's promising youngsters a start in the top grade by replacing Dane Hokin with under 19 vice captain Scott Jones.

After seven minutes Jones made his mark on the match in a way he would have dreaded by scoring an own goal when trying to stop a shot from Bankstown striker Colin Luff. To be fair to Jones it appeared Luff's shot would have scored anyway and he shouldn't be judged too harshly with his headed

Bankstown City Lions 1 (Own goal 7m)
Central Coast Coasties 0

BANKSTOWN: Josevski, Kanaan, R. Luksic, Raeburn, Trpkoski (Kim), Dimitrievski, Angievski, D. Luksic (Wearne), Trposki, Luff (Iocca), Umlil

COASTIES: Moore, Matthews, Falzon, Jones, Daley, Preston, Peatey (Hokin), Smith (Wilson), Williams (Freeman), Ritchie, Clark

Cautions: BANKSTOWN. Nil,
COASTIES: Wilson

Referee: Nick Asargiotis
Assistant Referees: Jim Barnes, Andrew Kay
Fourth Official: Jim Nicolaou

attempt to try and stop the ball going into the net. For the rest of the match Jones played solidly and overall made a promising first grade debut.

Bankstown probably had the better of the first half making many goalscoring chances mainly through the industrious work of Freddy Umlil in midfield. He appeared to be everywhere and was supplying his front runners with plenty of opportunities

On the nineteen-minute mark Coasties' Mick Williams was literally flattened in the penalty area by a flying Bankstown elbow. Referee Nick Asargiotis went to his assistant to confirm the identity of the culprit, ran back to the centre circle, picked up the ball, spoke to a number of Bankstown players and gave a goal kick!!

After the game he explained that he thought it was one player, his assistant mentioned two other players, so he was unable to make any decision on the incident. The only thing that resulted from the incident was a headache to Williams and the culprit saved from a red card. Oh yes, and another opportunity for the Coasties to score! (Ahem!)

The second half saw the Coasties dominate for long periods with the only highlight for them being a twenty five metre drive from Hokin, with his first touch after he replaced Peatey, that was goal bound and saw Josevski save the day with a great tip over the bar.

For Bankstown Trposki, Luff, Angievski and Iocca all missed reasonable goal scoring chances.

Apart from Umlil, Raeburn played well keeping Preston reasonably contained, and Josevski again put in a solid performance. For the Coasties, Daley

worked well in defence, new signing Gary Wilson showed he will add a bit of "grit" to the midfield and young Falzon seems to have earned a permanent first grade position with another strong performance.

And just to show that the Coasties story never changes their under 19 team again showed the "big boys" how its done with another solid 4-1 win to retain their top position!



A solid debut for Coasties' Scott Jones, despite conceding an own goal.



Manchester United's latest signing, Uruguayan striker Diego Forlan, poses with the team jersey at a press conference at Old Trafford, last week.

"I'm happy to have joined Man Utd" — Forlan

Forlan passed a medical at Old Trafford last week after United had completed the paper work of the deal and checked the details of the Uruguayan striker's Italian passport.

Forlan, 22, who watched United's 2-1 win over Blackburn, should be available for the match against Bolton on 29 January.

Forlan said during the media presen-

tation: "I'll try to be useful for the team and if I can't score I'll try and help the team to score."

"But I'm very happy to be here - it's something I dreamed about when I was a child."

"I watched the Premier League and when United played in the Champions League - I love the way they play." Forlan also revealed he was pleased that the two-way tussle for his services between United and Middlesbrough was over.

"It's nice to be wanted by two teams but I am more than happy to have signed here," he said.

"I wanted to know what was going to happen in the future. Now I can begin training."

Forlan said he had enjoyed watching United play Blackburn on Saturday.

We've watched him three times and think he has good potential" said Sir Alex Ferguson "When I came to see the match I was surprised by all the people and I saw they are a very good team," he said.

He watched Ruud van Nistelrooy become the first player to score in eight successive Premiership games and added: "He's a great player - I admire how he plays."

Ferguson said: "We've watched him three times and think he has good potential - two good feet, he's quick and a good header of the ball."

"At 22 he represents a good future."

Forlan was not eligible for United's FA Cup fourth round tie against Middlesbrough - the club he snubbed to join Sir Alex Ferguson's champions.

ARSENAL'S HENRY ENDORSES COKE

Thierry Henry signed a three-year deal with Coca-Cola to be worth around A\$2.1m told Evening Standard. Arsenal's French striker joined Luis Figo on the list of American soft drinks company and is going to have a share in their World Cup marketing campaign.

Meanwhile, David Beckham having signed with Coca-Cola's rivals Pepsi, will join Henry and Figo in the WC-2002 finals.

England captain is said to be receiving almost £8 million a year from the top brands adidas and Brylcreem.

According to Coca-Cola, Henry is considered to be one of the most popular players among 13-19-year-old fans and will become Coca-Cola's ambassador at the World Cup to promote their sports drink brand Powerade.

Batistuta relish tough World Cup games

Argentina national team striker Gabriel Batistuta revealed he is impatiently looking ahead to the World Cup start.

"We would obviously secure our spot in the finals if the tournament was being held now. I wouldn't even care about our rivals in the finals, however nobody can predict what is going to happen in five months," said the forward.

Batistuta confirmed Argentina will face a tough fight against their Group rivals Nigeria, England and Sweden.

"Our national team will have to fight harder than the others in Mundial's group stage as I don't think we will enter the next stage without hard work and sacrifice."

"Meanwhile, I don't consider China, Turkey and Costa-Rica who are in one group with Brazil national team, to be serious rivals for Brazil. The same case is with Italy and France."



Gabriel Batistuta

Referring to the question, how many goals he is going to score in Mundial, Batistuta revealed he doesn't know for sure, but he is keen to.

"I have stated for a number of times over my willingness to fight in Mundial. I am a bit tired of repeating this statement as well as saying that this is going to be my last Mundial," added the Argentinean striker.

Batistuta will become a record holder on the same list with Germany national team ex-striker Herth Muller in case he manages to score five more goals in Japan after his four goals at WC-1994 in USA and five in 1998 at France.

"I assess myself to be on the 6 or 7th

place on a ten-point scale. I am quick to gain the necessary shape, but I lack strength and good physical shape, which I need as much as air."

I believe my fans are happier with my goals than me, as I am well-aware of my physical state as well as my limits. However, this doesn't mean that I regret about scoring only 2 goals in the last two matches. I play rather well and besides I am just recovering from injury."

"To tell the truth, I don't think that Roma fully depends on my goals. I am keen to score 15-18 goals and I will manage to realize my intentions if I don't suffer from troublesome injuries."

Eriksson warning for England stars

England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson has warned his England players that any player who misbehaves will be axed from his World Cup plans.

Eriksson insisted he will not tolerate any player stepping out of line as he attempts to protect England's image in football's current climate of increasing ill-discipline.

The England boss, speaking in an interview to be screened on Swedish television, said: "If any player isn't behaving properly there is an easy solution for me. I will not include them in my squad."

England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson "I will not look for difficult solutions when there are easy ones to be taken." Eriksson has already revealed he will not consider Chelsea's John Terry while the defender is involved in a court case.

The futures of Leeds duo Jonathan Woodgate and Lee Bowyer also remains in doubt.

Woodgate is serving 100 hours' community service after being convicted of affray last month.

Bowyer was cleared of a similar

charge but is still facing a Football Association misconduct hearing into two on-field incidents.

Eriksson added: "Whether you are the manager of a club or a national side, you always have the same ideas and philosophies of how your players should perform and behave."

"If you take over at a club and realise some players are not behaving properly, then you have a problem and you have to be very quick to tell them off."

"You cannot buy and sell when you are the manager of a national team - but, in many ways, it's easier because you just don't call the players you don't want."

He added: "The players cannot know what I demand of them unless I tell them."

So every time the group comes together I say 'this is how it is in my team'."

But Eriksson was quick to insist that his current squad is clear of any criticism.

He added: "People talk a lot about alcohol in English football but I have not seen any evidence of that with my team."

"Absolutely not. They are very nice."

Ghanaian players get riot act

Ghana coach Osam-Duodu last week told his players to shape up or ship out of the team here for the African Nations Cup following the dramatic ejection of Bayern Munich star Samuel Osei Kuffour from the squad Monday.

"The whole team met for over three hours to discuss the events of the past few days and the coach did not mince words in telling the players to either conform to instructions in camp or go the way of Kuffour," an official close to the team told AFP.

"The players were also asked what their problems in camp were and at the same time psyched up to go out and play their hearts out for Ghana."

The official continued: "We expected some other players to leave the team in support of Kuffour but so far nobody has done so. Everybody has been doing what is expected of him."

Observers had expected a player like Emmanuel Duah, Kuffour's teammate since their days together at the Under-



Ghana's defender Samuel Osei Kuffour in action, during the 2002 African Nations Cup match Ghana vs Morocco last week. The defender was ejected from the national team for "real indiscipline".

17 level, to leave in solidarity with his friend.

However, the Portugal-based striker, who captained the Black Stars against Morocco last week Monday has stayed put, and worked hard for the match against South Africa on Thursday.

"We have taken a decision and it is final. And we will also take what ever consequences that come with such a decision," the official added.

O'Leary's hatemailer wanted

Police are hunting an obsessive letter writer who has been threatening to carry out 'menacing and chilling attacks on the wife of Leeds United manager David O'Leary, West Yorkshire detectives confirmed last week.

The Irishman's family have been given extra police protection while the search goes on for the person, believed by police to be a man, who has so far sent seven letters.

"We need to catch him before he has the chance to do anything," detective superintendent Eddie Hemsley said.

"The first letter contained a certain demand and a cruel threat to harm his wife, Joy, if it was not met. It also gave further details of how the attack would be carried out.

"It was not a death threat as such but I can understand that Mr O'Leary did believe it was a

threat to kill his wife.

"Nothing has happened so far but this is an obsessive person...the things that have been said in these letters are both menacing and chilling."

The first letter arrived at Elland Road shortly after the start of the first trial of Leeds United players Lee Bowyer and Jonathan Woodgate which had to be halted when a Sunday newspaper published an article held to be prejudicial to the defendants.

Woodgate was found guilty of affray last month but cleared of causing grievous bodily harm with intent over a brutal street attack on an Asian student.

His team-mate Bowyer was cleared of causing grievous bodily harm with intent and affray by a jury at Hull Crown Court.

The first trial collapsed after an article in a Sunday newspaper.



Cameroon's Eto'o Fils Samuel (right) fight for the ball with Congolese Bakasu during their match in the African Nations Cup.

Van Gaal tipped to succeed Fergie

Rumours continue to escalate that Louis van Gaal will certainly succeed Alex Ferguson as manager of Manchester United.

The Dutch newspaper, Algemeen Dagblad said that the club's chief executive, Peter Kenyon had given the clearest indication yet that Van Gaal was the prime candidate yesterday.

Kenyon said that the new manager needed to be immediately available, as the club was not prepared to pay a transfer fee for their new manager. This means that the likes of David O'Leary, Ottmar Hitzfeld, Martin O'Neill and Fabio Capello can be ruled out of the picture and leaves the path open for the sole remaining candidate - Louis van Gaal.

There is a close bond between Kenyon and the former Dutch manager. Kenyon was managing director at the sports clothes company Umbro, during the time of Van Gaal's Ajax Amsterdam success.

Another clear indication that Van Gaal will hold the Manchester United hot-seat is the fact that Ferguson himself said that his successor would not be British.

Van Gaal's contract with the KNVB (Dutch FA) as technical director expires on the 31st of January, and the sacked Dutch manager will make his last public appearance in that role today.

The Algemeen Dagblad also said that Co Adriaanse, who was sacked as Ajax manager in the same week as Van Gaal's Holland departure, will go with him to the North of England club. Adriaanse will take on the role of managing the youth development at the club.

This would be an identical partnership that the pair forged at Ajax, and it is a well known fact that Van Gaal and Adriaanse fancy working together again. Adriaanse failed to comment on the potential move however.

PLAYER'S DEATH HALTS ITALIAN FA CUP

The Italian Cup semi-final first leg match between Parma and Brescia was postponed as the players prepared to kick off last week when it emerged a Brescia player had been killed in a car crash.

As the teams came onto the pitch at the Stadio Ennio Tardini, the Italian media reported Brescia defender Vittorio Mero had been killed in a car crash.

The 27-year-old died after an accident near toll booths on Ospitaletto and Rovato. Early reports

said the driver of another vehicle involved in the incident had fled the scene.

Later Wednesday a lorry driver was arrested near Verona for failing to help a person in distress.

The clubs quickly reached an agreement to reschedule the match for January.

The teams were already in position and set to kick off when an official ran onto the pitch and whispered in the ear of referee Graziano Cesari just as he was preparing to signal the kick-off.

Seconds later Brescia players were in tears as the

news spread and both teams left the pitch while a clearly upset Brescia captain Roberto Baggio flung his captain's armband away.

News also filtered through to supporters who started chanting the dead player's name, accompanied by the applause in Italy that is traditional in moments of grief.

Media reports said that the player's father Salvatore had to be taken to hospital for treatment for shock after he heard of his son's death on the radio.

BORO GRAB DWIGHT YORKE

Middlesbrough manager Steve McClaren has won the race for Dwight Yorke, after edging out rivals Sunderland, the Mirror reported.

McClaren completed a £6 million move after offering higher wages than Peter Reid to land the Manchester United striker.

Independiente star Diego Forlan's arrival at Old Trafford made the Trinidad and Tobago international realise his time at Old Trafford is up, and he was convinced of a move to Boro after talks with defender Ugo Ehiogu, who believes his former Villa team-mate can propel Boro to safety.

"I've spoken to Dwight and I've tried my hardest to

sell him the club," said 29-year-old Ehiogu.

"Steve McClaren worked with Dwight at United and he's aware of his qualities. He's still got a lot to prove, he still wants to score goals and he's the fittest player at Manchester United.

"If you look at his scoring



Dwight Yorke: Leaving Man Utd for Middlesbrough.

record over the last three seasons, you'll find he's averaging about 20 a season.

"He's the sort of player we should be going for. I've been very surprised at the lack of transfer activity at this club. If anything, we've had to watch the purse strings."

RIVALDO TO END CAREER AT BARCA

Barcelona FC Brazilian striker Rivaldo told in his interview to TV program El Rondo that he would like to finish his career at Camp Nou.

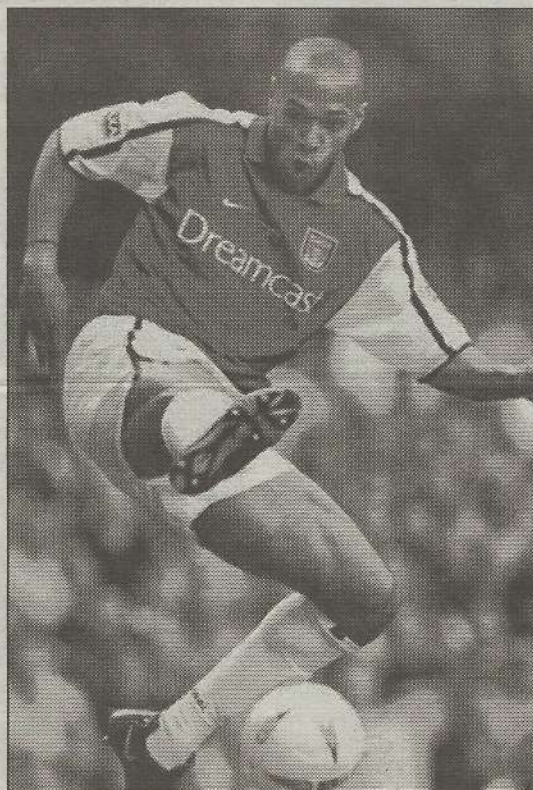
Rivaldo is believed to have asked Barca management for a two-three season contract extension. The player is sure that at his age (he will turn 30 on April 19), incidentally the same as Figo and Zidane, he can still perform at the highest level in Barcelona.

The Brazilian's contract expires on June 30, 2003, and there is a clause in his contract permitting the Catalan side to sell him to a club

where he would receive the same salary he gets in Barca.

If Barcelona wants to earn money on Rivaldo's transfer they should start acting right away, as at the end of the season 2002-2003 he will become a free agent. According to El Rondo, the club is to consider the player's offer this year.

Besides, Rivaldo may get dual citizenship, and thus terminating his status as an international. Barcelona management held a meeting yesterday to discuss their current situation, but no comments were made afterwards.



Thierry Henry

'ARSENAL'LL SURVIVE WITHOUT VIEIRA'

Arsenal star Thierry Henry believes the Gunners will recover should Patrick Vieira decide to quit Highbury, the Mirror reported.

Despite the speculation linking Vieira with a £56 million move to Real Madrid, Arsenal have already resigned themselves to the Frenchman exercising his option to quit the club next summer.

Henry said: "When Ian Wright left Arsenal everyone was sad but everything has to end one day. At the time you think 'Oh no, we are finished!' but when Ian Rush left Liverpool everyone was sad. What happened next? Along came Robbie Fowler and Michael Owen. Big teams never die.

"There will always be good players. It's the same with me. One day I will have to stop playing football. But someone will come along and do much better. That's what we must remember."

RUSSO WRITES

By Joe Russo (in Rome)

This is my last chance to reflect and pontificate from the Eternal City and enjoy a lovely espresso before returning to Sydney in a few days.

Having endured information overload in the last few weeks in terms of Italian soccer, I thought it may be an opportune time to make a connection, hard that it may be, between soccer in Italy and Australia.

Firstly, how many Australians have played in the Serie A? Not quite sure but a few names come to mind: Frank Farina, John Aloisi and Paul Okon. For good measure I will also throw in Christian Vieri and Ante Seric even though neither can represent the Socceroos having committed themselves to Italy and Croatia respectively.

Farina's stint in Bari about a decade ago lasted approximately a couple of months and Aloisi looked the goods for about a season with Cremonese. Both these clubs were then Serie A teams but, on the whole, both strikers found conditions rather difficult.

Okon was at one stage labelled the new Franco Baresi. Those were the days when he was considered a sweeper rather than a midfielder. However, injury hampered his stint at Lazio and rarely did he get to show his true colours here in Rome.

When Okon moved to Fiorentina he was considered a good bench player, who spasmodically started in games, by then coach, and now Italian national team manager, Giovanni Trapattoni.

The honour of playing in the Serie A, the world's most competitive and technical league, is something that can never be taken away from these three players.

Vieri's association with Australia is well documented but having returned to Italy as a teenager, he learnt the finer points of the game here in Italy. There can be no doubt that today Vieri is a superstar.

Seric, unlike Vieri, was born in Australia but moved to Croatia as a teenager and now is a regular for Verona. He is doing very well here and is a player that would have come in very handy for the Socceroos.

The forgotten Australian is perhaps Marco Bresciano - a Serie B player with Empoli. Bresciano is a young and dynamic midfielder with a club that could well be promoted back to the Serie A. It would be a wonderful achievement for Bresciano to crack the Serie A and mix it with the best in the world.

Overall, having watched a number of junior training sessions here in Italy, what can one do to perhaps bridge the gap between standards in Australia and Italy?

Australian juniors are amongst the best in the world - there is absolutely no doubt about it but they lack that 'something'. What is that 'something'? Why does it all go wrong at the senior level? Why can't more Australians play in the Serie A?

The answer lies maybe in the coaching. Australian juniors need the influence and experience of overseas coaches but not just any overseas coaches. We need the right people.

What's he on about you are probably asking? Well allow me to expand further. In the second game against Uruguay in Montevideo in November, the Socceroos were totally outplayed by a very skilful team. Except for Harry Kewell, the skill level of our players was well below that of the Uruguayans.

At the senior level you can't coach skills. The skills of a Kewell for instance are fixed at that stage. Skills are developed at a junior level and this is where the Italians, other Europeans and South Americans beat the Australians.

The right coaches teach the children the right skills, which they develop and keep throughout their careers.

In the aftermath of the Uruguay debacle one has to wonder if the point has been missed. We were reading about the administration of Soccer Australia, the coach's tactics, the sweeper (Ned Zelic) debate etc etc as reasons for our failure to qualify for the World Cup.

However, the only way we are going to qualify again for a World Cup, and get more of our players in the Serie A, is if our juniors are taught the right skills by the right people so that later in life teams such as Uruguay do not completely outplay us. This is the real reform that is needed and this is a key point that has been overlooked in all the reasons offered to date for our World Cup failure.

This week in Rome there is the big Lazio v AC Milan clash which should be a real beauty. The city is really looking forward to this one.

In Viareggio in Tuscany the annual Coppa Carnevale (under 20) soccer tournament starts soon. Representing Australia is Leichhardt Tigers Under 20 from the NSW Premier League. They are grouped with Padova, Vicenza and Piacenza. My understanding is that the lads are already here, so to them all, best of luck from all at ABSW.

ROMA 2 PIACENZA 0

Gabriel Batistuta's 77th minute strike, his third goal in as many games helped put AS Roma back on top of Serie A as Inter Milan were held to a draw at bottom club Venezia.

Piacenza are the only team in Serie A to have beaten the title-holders this season but got off to a bad start as Brazilian midfielder Assuncao put the home side ahead with a trademark free-kick in the 15th minute.

ATALANTA 2 FIORENTINA 0

Brazilian teenager Inacio Pia slotted home from close range in the 35th minute to celebrate his first start for Atalanta and Italy international Cristiano Doni continued his remarkable run by blasting home his 13th of the season.

Second from bottom Fiorentina dropped their 12th match of the season, their first under new manager Ottavio Bianchi.

LECCE 1 BRESCIA 3

Luca Toni scored twice and Emanuele Filippini added a third as Brescia beat Lecce in a relegation clash.

Inspired by the return of Roberto Baggio, making his first appearance since a knee injury in November, Brescia won their second away match of the season to climb three points above Lecce, third from bottom on 19 points.

Toni celebrated by showing a T-shirt under his jersey saluting Vittorio Mero, the Brescia defender who died midweek in a car crash. Moving scenes followed each goal as the players remembered the 27-year-old.

AC MILAN 2 UDINESE 3

Desperate for points, AC Milan let a two goal lead slip away and fell to a shock home defeat at the hands of Udinese.

Andriy Shevchenko scored from a fifth minute penalty and Brazilian Serginho added another eight minutes later for a two goal advantage before Roberto Muzzi pulled one back for the



Vincent Candela of Roma in action during the match between Roma and Piacenza.



Martin Jorgensen (second right) of Udinese celebrates his goal in the 3-2 win over AC Milan.

CHAMPS TIGHTEN GRIP

visitors with his 11th of the season.

On the stroke of halftime Udinese's Gennaro Scarlato brought down Shevchenko in the box, but the Ukrainian striker saw his penalty well saved by goalkeeper Luigi Turci.

The error proved costly as Scarlato redeemed himself with a diving header early in the second half to level the score. Danish international Martin Jorgensen capped the come-back 12 minutes from time slamming home a Muzzi free kick that came off the cross-bar.

PERUGIA 3 VERONA 1

Lichtenstein forward Mario Frick put Verona in the lead with a 17th minute goal but Perugia scored three times in the second half as Iranian defender Rahman Rezaei, South Korean Jung Wan Ahn, and Giovanni Tedesco were on target.

Verona had defender Paolo Cannavaro, brother of Parma's Fabio, sent off in the 76th minute for his second bookable offence.

TORINO 1 LAZIO 0

Cristiano Lucarelli scored with a brilliant second half volley for his ninth goal of the season helping Torino to their third consecutive win.

Struggling Lazio, playing without the injured Hernan Crespo, Simone Inzaghi and Alessandro Nesta, had several opportunities to equalise but Argentine forward Claudio Lopez, the only striker fit for the match, was off target.

VENEZIA 1 INTER MILAN 1

Filippo Maniero scored his 11th goal of the season helping bottom club Venezia earn a draw against top club Inter Milan.

Striker Christian Vieri once again made the difference with a fine vol-

ley on Vratislav Gresko's cross giving the visitor's the lead in the 28th minute.

Venezia refused to give in and Francesco Toldo did just enough to turn a Federico Magallanes shot onto the crossbar early in the second half. The pressure paid off when Maniero was brought down by Gresko and the striker coolly converted the resulting penalty in the 70th minute.

PARMA 2 BOLOGNA 1

Relegation plagues Parma took the lead with their first shot on goal. Fabio Cannavaro rose to meet a corner kick in the seventh minute and saw his header take a decisive deflection off Bologna's Carlo Nervo.

Eight minutes later another cross floated in from the corner flag and was met by Hakan Sukur. The Turkish international scored on his first start for Parma since his move from Inter.

Just after the break, Fabio Pecchia pulled a goal back for the visitors but Parma held on to claim their fifth victory of the season.

CHIEVO VERONA 1 JUVENTUS 3

Juventus went ahead in the 18th minute when David Trezeguet nod-

ded an Alessandro Del Piero corner back across the face of the goal and veteran defender Ciro Ferrara headed home from close range.

Three minutes after the restart Juve doubled their advantage in fortunate fashion when a Del Piero effort from a Pavel Nedved cross went in off the knee of Chievo defender Fabio Moro.

Chievo were back in the game when their influential midfielder Eugenio Corini sent Massimo Marazzina free on the right and the striker drove a low, diagonal shot past Buffon, but the game was killed off by Del Piero from the penalty spot when Moro was ruled to have handled a Nedved cross.

This Week (February 3)

Bologna vs Venezia
Brescia vs Parma
Fiorentina vs AS Roma
Inter Milan vs Torino
Juventus vs Lecce
Lazio vs AC Milan
Piacenza vs Chievo
Udinese vs Perugia
Verona vs Atalanta

Atalanta 2 Fiorentina 0, Chievo 1 Juventus 3, Lecce 1
Brescia 3, AC Milan 2 Udinese 3, Perugia 3 Verona 1,
AS Roma 2 Piacenza 0, Torino 1 Lazio 0, Venezia 1 Inter
Milan 1, Parma 2 Bologna 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AS Roma	20	12	7	1	31	12	43
Inter Milan	20	12	6	2	36	17	42
Juventus	20	11	7	2	38	15	40
Chievo	19	10	3	6	34	28	33
AC Milan	20	8	8	4	29	22	32
Bologna	20	9	4	7	21	21	31
Lazio	19	7	7	5	26	14	28
Verona	20	8	4	8	27	30	28
Torino	20	7	5	8	24	25	26
Udinese	20	7	4	9	29	34	25
Perugia	20	7	4	9	23	29	25
Atalanta	20	7	4	9	26	34	25
Piacenza	20	6	4	10	24	27	22
Brescia	20	5	7	8	24	33	22
Parma	20	5	6	9	24	31	21
Lecce	20	4	7	9	20	29	19
Fiorentina	20	4	4	12	21	40	16
Venezia	20	2	5	13	17	33	11



Gunners dump the champs as Man Utd crash out



Arsenal's Dennis Bergkamp (left) looks shocked after referee Mike Riley sends him off for stamping on Liverpool's Jamie Carragher (right)

1997, must replay their tie against West Ham United after a 1-1 draw in their London derby on Saturday. Frederic Kanoute hit a late equaliser to Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink's goal for Chelsea.

Manchester City coach Kevin Keegan was rewarded for his side's 4-1 FA Cup win over Ipswich with an away draw at former club Newcastle in the fifth round. Favourites Arsenal will play Gillingham or Bristol Rovers while Middlesbrough play Blackburn.

City defender Stuart Pearce, also a former Newcastle player, said: "The draw tests us and we will see how good we are. It will be a good yardstick to see if we can cope if we make it to the Premiership next season."

Bristol Rovers forward Nathan Ellington welcomed the prospect of a game at Highbury: "If we can take care of Gillingham it will be a great day for everyone," he said. "We'll go to Gillingham with our minds on Arsenal though we'll have to try not to think about it."

Athletic and West Bromwich Albion against Leicester City.

Manager Alex Ferguson conceded that the FA Cup has thrived on the traps it can spring on the very best sides when he said: "The Cup can do that to you. We've experienced it many times in our favour in the past, so you've just got to accept it."

The champions gave away two goals in the last five minutes — the first following a blunder by veteran Frenchman Laurent Blanc, and the second after a poor clearance from goalkeeper Fabien Barthez — as they went down 2-0 to the side managed by Alex Ferguson's former number two at Old Trafford, Steve McClaren.

Chelsea, who have won the trophy twice since

Nine-man Arsenal fought their way to a thrilling 1-0 FA Cup fourth round victory over 10-man Liverpool at Highbury on Sunday, with Dennis Bergkamp scoring the winner before getting his marching orders.

Arsenal were then rewarded with a plum fifth round tie, at home to either first division Gillingham or second division Bristol Rovers, whose fourth round tie was postponed until February 5 because of the weekend's bad weather.

Title rivals Newcastle United were given a fright by second division Peterborough, who came from 2-0 down to reach 2-2 with under 10 minutes left before a penalty from Alan Shearer and a strike from Aaron Hughes gave Bobby Robson's side a 4-2 win.

Newcastle will also be at home in the last 16, but they were paired with first division promotion favourites Manchester City, fine 4-1 winners away to Ipswich Town, when the draw was made immediately after their match at Portman Road.

Manchester United's shock elimination at Middlesbrough on Saturday kept the romance of the FA Cup alive along with upset victories for first division strugglers Walsall against Charlton

ALL THE RESULTS

Arsenal	1	Liverpool	0
Cheltenham (III)	2	Burnley (I)	1
Ipswich Town	1	Manchester City (I)	4
Tranmere Rovers (II)	3	Cardiff City (II)	1
Peterborough (II)	2	Newcastle United	4
Charlton Athletic	1	Walsall (I)	2
Chelsea	1	West Ham United	1
Everton	4	Leyton Orient (III)	1
Gillingham (I) v Bristol Rovers (III) postponed			
Middlesbrough	2	Manchester United	0
Millwall (I)	0	Blackburn Rovers	1
Preston (I)	2	Sheffield United (I)	1
Rotherham (I)	2	Crewe (I)	4
Tottenham Hotspur v Bolton Wanderers postponed			
(New date: Tuesday, February 5)			
West Bromwich (I)	1	Leicester City	0
York (III)	0	Fulham	2

FA CUP 5TH ROUND

Newcastle v Manchester City
Arsenal v Gillingham/Bristol Rovers
Chelsea/West Ham v Preston North End
Middlesbrough v Blackburn Rovers
Everton v Crewe Alexandra

THIS WEEK

(Tuesday, January 29)

Bolton vs Manchester Utd
Charlton vs Derby
Ipswich vs Fulham
Sunderland vs M'brough

(Wednesday, January 30)

Aston Villa vs Everton
Blackburn vs Arsenal
Chelsea vs Leeds
Liverpool vs Leicester
Southampton vs West Ham
Tottenham vs Newcastle

(Saturday, February 2)

Arsenal vs Southampton
West Ham vs Blackburn
Derby vs Tottenham
Everton vs Ipswich
Fulham vs Aston Villa
Leeds vs Liverpool
Leicester vs Chelsea
Manchester Utd vs
Sunderland
M'brough vs Charlton
Newcastle vs Bolton



Manchester City's Niclas Jensen tackles Ipswich's Sixto Peralta, (left) during their FA Cup match at Portman Road.



Spanish Primera Liga

Barcelona's woes continued as they crashed to a 1-0 home defeat to lowly Osasuna and fell to eighth place in the league.

With court cases looming over the 'alleged players' party, the prosecution against Charly Rexach is gathering evidence to have him removed from the Catalan hotseat. Barca were booed from the field after a dismal display saw them hand all three points to their Navarrese visitors, who scored with a cleverly worked Alfredo goal nine minutes from time.

With Patrick Kluivert suspended, the home side looked blunt against Osasuna's well-organised defence and the Javier Saviola and Rivaldo made little impression throughout the game.

But Osasuna deserved their win after playing a cautious waiting game before hitting Barcelona on the break once Phillip Cocu had been sent off.

Ivan Helguera gave Real Madrid the lead at the Bernabeu on the stroke of half-time against Real Betis. Gabriel Amato appeared to have wasted the Andalucians' chances when he missed a 72nd minute penalty. But Juanito pegged back the champions with a last-minute equaliser, that still leaves Real three points clear.

Savo Milosevic scored twice as Real Zaragoza beat Rayo Vallecano 3-2 to jump clear of the relegation zone. The Yugoslav striker made an immediate impact following his return to La Romareda on loan from Italian side Parma.

Bolic netted for Rayo after 22 minutes and Gregorio Manzano's side took control. But Zaragoza regrouped during the interval and Toro Acuna equalised on 52 minutes.

Then the Milosevic show began as he scored on 65 and 74 minutes to secure the points for the home side and lift the home crowd into rapturous applause. Michel scored five minutes from the end, but it was too little, too late after Milosevic's double had killed off any hopes they had of taking any-



Real Madrid's Portuguese player Luis Figo (right) is challenged by Iceland-born Johannes Gudjonsson of Real Betis

Problems mount at Barca

thing from the game.

Copa del Rey semi-finalists Athletic Bilbao and Deportivo La Coruna shared the points after a 1-1 draw in San Mames did neither side any favours in their title chase. Djalminha gave the Galicians the lead 20 minute after the break, but less than a minute later Santiago Ezquerro levelled for the home side.

Seville moved into seventh place after convincingly beating Espanyol 3-0 in the Sanchez Pizjuan, while the Catalans dropped even closer towards the bottom three.

Moises Garcia was the home side's hero as he found the net twice inside three minutes after the interval with goals on 47 and 49 minutes. Jose Antonio Reyes completed Espanyol's misery with a third nine minutes from time.

Mallorca recorded their highest

win of the season with a 4-0 victory at Alaves to move away from the relegation zone. Losada opened the scoring after six minutes and Albert Luque doubled the visitors' lead with a goal five minutes later.

Any hope Alaves had of a comeback disappeared minutes after the second half began as Losada struck again and Alejandro Campano completed the rout with a late penalty.

Juan Antonio Pizzi scored his first goal for Villarreal as they recorded a 2-1 win against Tenerife in El Madrigal. Jorge Lopez gave the home side the lead three minutes before half time and Pizzi netted three minutes later to secure the points for the Yellow Submarines.

Bruno Marionni pulled a goal back for the Canary Islanders seven minutes after the restart but

Villarreal held on to claim maximum points.

Valladolid's recent improvement continued as they earned a point from a scrappy 0-0 draw with Malaga in the Nuevo Jose Zorrilla.

THIS WEEK

(Sunday, February 3)

Espanyol vs Real Madrid

Betis vs Valladolid

Malaga vs Las Palmas

Valencia vs Athletic Bilbao

Deportivo Coruna vs

Alaves

Mallorca vs Celta Vigo

Real Sociedad vs Villarreal

Tenerife vs Barcelona

Osasuna vs Zaragoza

Rayo Vallecano vs Sevilla

Alaves 0 Real Mallorca 4, Athletic Bilbao 1 Deportivo Coruna 1, Barcelona 0 Osasuna 1, Real Madrid 1 Real Betis 1, Real Zaragoza 3 Rayo Vallecano 2, Sevilla 3 Espanyol 0, Valladolid 0 Malaga 0, Villarreal 2 Tenerife 1, Celta Vigo 3 Real Sociedad 1, Las Palmas 0 Valencia 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	22	11	7	4	39	24	40
Celta Vigo	22	9	10	3	41	25	37
Deportivo Coruna	22	11	4	7	35	29	37
Valencia	22	9	9	4	25	19	36
Alaves	22	11	3	8	22	19	36
Athletic Bilbao	22	9	8	5	30	30	35
Real Betis	22	9	7	6	23	21	34
Sevilla	22	9	6	7	37	27	33
Barcelona	22	9	6	7	31	21	33
Valladolid	22	9	5	8	25	34	32
Real Zaragoza	22	8	3	11	23	33	27
Las Palmas	22	7	6	9	23	19	27
Malaga	22	6	9	7	24	26	27
Villarreal	22	7	6	9	24	26	27
Osasuna	22	7	6	9	21	27	27
Real Mallorca	22	7	5	10	27	29	26
Espanyol	22	7	5	10	25	35	26
Tenerife	22	6	4	12	16	27	22
Rayo Vallecano	22	5	5	12	25	37	20
Real Sociedad	22	5	4	13	26	34	19



Mallorca's Xavier Olaizola (left) wins a header over Brazilian Magno Mocelin from Alaves.

BELGIAN ERSTEKLASSE

RWD Molenbeek 2 Standard Liege 1, Excelsior Mouscron 1 Lommel 0, St Truiden 2 Charleroi 1, Beveren 0 Club Bruges 4, Lokeren 1 Eendracht Aalst 0, La Louviere 0 Genk Westerlo 3 Ghent 1, Royal Antwerp 1 Lierse 4, Anderlecht 1 Beerschot 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Genk	20	12	7	1	56	25	43
Club Bruges	20	14	1	5	48	24	43
Anderlecht	20	12	6	2	44	22	42
Standard Liege	19	12	4	3	39	20	40
Ghent	20	12	4	4	35	25	40
Lokeren	20	11	5	4	32	20	38
Mouscron	20	9	2	9	42	29	29
St Truiden	20	8	4	8	29	29	28
Beerschot	19	7	6	6	36	26	27
Westerlo	20	7	3	10	33	37	24
Charleroi	20	7	3	10	19	38	24
Lierse	20	5	6	9	33	35	21
Lommel	20	5	6	9	29	38	21
Molenbeek	20	6	2	12	26	37	20
Royal Antwerp	20	4	5	11	26	37	17
La Louviere	20	3	7	10	23	42	16
Aalst	20	4	3	13	18	48	15
Beveren	20	1	6	13	20	56	9

DUTCH EREDIVISIE

Utrecht 2 Feyenoord 2, Den Bosch 0 Ajax Amsterdam 1, Vitesse Arnhem 2 NEC Nijmegen 1, RKC Waalwijk 0 Willem II Tilburg 1, PSV Eindhoven 3 NAC Breda Graaafschap 5, Fortuna Sittard 0, Roda JC Kerkrade 2 Twente Enschede 1, AZ Alkmaar 3 Groningen 2, Sparta Rotterdam 1 Heerenveen 4.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax Amsterdam	19	12	3	4	43	23	39
PSV Eindhoven	20	11	4	5	43	24	37
Feyenoord	18	11	3	4	40	16	36
Heerenveen	20	10	5	5	36	16	35
NAC Breda	20	10	4	6	36	31	34
Utrecht	20	9	6	5	42	29	33
Vitesse Arnhem	20	9	6	5	23	22	33
RKC Waalwijk	20	8	4	8	27	22	28
Willem II Tilburg	20	5	10	5	31	32	25
NEC Nijmegen	20	7	4	9	16	32	25
AZ Alkmaar	19	7	3	9	22	25	24
Den Bosch	19	5	7	7	28	28	22
Roda JC Kerkrade	20	6	4	10	20	28	22
Graaafschap	19	6	3	10	27	33	21
Twente Enschede	20	4	9	7	24	29	21
Sparta Rotterdam	19	4	7	8	19	38	19
Groningen	20	5	4	11	22	42	19
Fortuna Sittard	19	2	4	13	19	48	10



Dennis Rommedahl of PSV Eindhoven.

PORTUGUESE LIGA

Beira Mar 4 Varzim 0, Uniao Leiria 2 Pacos Ferreira 1, Gil Vicente 1 Santa Clara 3, Farense 2 Braga 2, Porto 2 Maritimo 1, Vitoria Guimaraes 3 Salgueiros 0, Alverca 1 Sporting 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sporting	20	13	4	3	45	16	43
Boavista	19	12	3	4	33	13	39
Uniao Leiria	20	10	7	3	36	18	37
Porto	20	11	3	6	33	19	36
Benfica	19	9	8	2	33	21	35
Vitoria Guimaraes	20	9	4	7	26	21	31
Maritimo	20	9	2	9	26	23	29
Belenenses	19	8	4	7	26	28	28
Braga	20	7	6	7	27	20	27
Santa Clara	20	7	6	7	20	25	27
Pacos Ferreira	20	6	7	7	25	31	25
Gil Vicente	20	7	3	10	24	34	24
Beira Mar	20	5	6	9	32	34	21
Salgueiros	20	6	3	11	19	42	21
Alverca	20	5	4	11	25	40	19
Farense	20	5	4	11	17	32	19
Vitoria Setubal	19	4	5	10	20	24	17
Varzim	20	3	5	12	15	41	14

SCOTTISH FA CUP

INVERNESS BREAK HEARTS

Inverness Caledonian Thistle served up another shock as they dumped Heart of Midlothian out of the Scottish Cup.

Dunfermline fell victim to first division Ayr United while Hibernian's dismal run continued at Rangers.

Celtic - who beat Kilmarnock in the late Saturday game - were the last victim of Thistle's giant killing in a defeat that cost John Barnes his job at Parkhead.

At Tynecastle, Ross Tokely opened the scoring for Caley and second half goals Dennis Wyness and David Bagan gave the first division Highland side another memorable 3-1 win.

Gary Wales had given Hearts hope with a late first half equaliser.

Rangers eased through to the quarter-finals with a comfortable 4-1 win against Hibernian.

The Edinburgh side have not won in the league since October but they held their own in the first half as Francisco Luna cancelled out Tore Andre Flo's opener.

But Peter Lovenkrands, a second from Flo and a late Billy Dodds strike sealed the win.

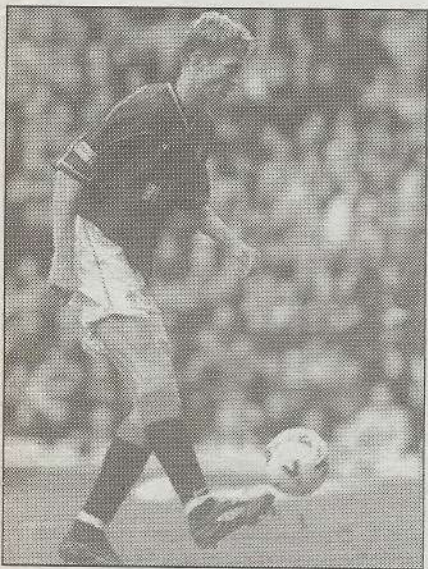
Celtic repeated the 2-0 victory they achieved over Kilmarnock at Rugby Park in the league. An own goal from Gary Hay gave the visitors the lead early in the second-half and Henrik Larsson pulled Celtic clear.

First-half goals from Robbie Winters and Jamie McAllister helped Aberdeen progress and gain revenge against Livingston who had won twice at Pittodrie this season.

Ayr United claimed their fourth Scottish Premier League scalp in two years with a comfortable win over Dunfermline.

James Grady, a Gus MacPherson own goal and John Robertson sealed the 3-0 victory.

Elsewhere, Dundee drew 1-1 at Partick Thistle and Clyde went down 2-1 at home to Forfar.



Tore Andre Flo: Scored a brace to propel Rangers towards a crushing 4-1 victory over Hibernian and into the FA Cup Quarter Finals.

FOURTH ROUND RESULTS

Aberdeen 2 Livingston 0, Ayr (I) 3 Dunfermline Athletic 0, Rangers 4 Hibernian 1, Clyde (I) 1 Forfar (II) 2, Hearts 1 Inverness C.Thistle (I) 3, Partick (I) 1 Dundee 1, Kilmarnock 0 Celtic 2, Dundee United v Hamilton (II) (postponed till Tuesday, January 29)

QUARTER-FINAL DRAW

Forfar v Rangers
Dundee Utd or Hamilton v Ayr Utd
Aberdeen v Celtic
Partick or Dundee v Inverness CT

GERMANY BUNDESLIGA



Borussia Dortmund's Brazilian forward Ewerthon (front) gets around Dutch defender Dick van Burik of Hertha Berlin.

SCHALKE SHOCK BAYERN MUNICH

Champions Bayern Munich went into the game at Schalke 04 having failed to win any of their last six games before the winter-break - and they were soon in trouble again.

Belgium striker Emile Mpenza put the Royal Blues ahead just after the half-hour mark and partner Ebbe Sand added a second within two minutes. There was more woe for the Bavarians when Michael Tarnat was sent off on 41 minutes.

Germany midfielder Mehmet Scholl got the visitors back into the game shortly after the break but Jorg Bohme restored Schalke's two-goal advantage within five minutes and Marco van Hoogdalem added a fourth before Niels Oude Kamphuis completed the rout in the closing stages. Bayer Leverkusen left it late to take full advantage of the champions' slip against lowly Hansa Rostock at the BayArena. But goals from Boris Zivkovic and a Michael Ballack penalty in the last 15 minutes took Bayer three points clear of Borussia Dortmund, who play on Sunday. Kaiserslautern were weakened by the absence of Hany Ramzy (Egypt) and Taribo West (Nigeria) on African Nations duty and they needed late strikes to win at Borussia Monchengladbach.

An own goal by Marcelo Jose Pletsch broke the deadlock with 15 minutes to go and Jorgen Pettersson secured the points to take the Red Devils up to third in the last minute. Bottom-side St Pauli, who have only won one out of 18 matches, fell behind against Wolfsburg as Jochen Kientz put through his own net in the tenth minute. But Thomas Meggle equalised early in the second period and the visitors were reduced to ten-men when Miroslav Karhan was sent off on the hour-mark for his second bookable offence.

St Pauli took advantage with goals from Marcel Rath netted and Zlatan Bajramovic to condemn Wolfsburg to an embarrassing 3-1 defeat. Fellow strugglers Freiburg and FC Nuremberg met at the Dreisamstadion and the home side struck first blood with a goal from Florian Bruns three minutes before the break.

Alexander laschwilli made it two just after half time and Paulo Rink missed the chance to get the visitors back into the match by failing from the penalty spot in the second period. FC Cologne boss Ewald Lienen went into the game at 1860 Munich as the bookies' favourite to lose his job and second half goals from Martin Max and Roman Tyce for the home side added to his woe.

Borussia Dortmund 3 Hertha Berlin 1, Energie Cottbus 2 Werder Bremen 1, Schalke 04 5 Bayern Munich 1, FC St Pauli 3 VfL Wolfsburg 1, SC Freiburg 2 Nuremberg 0, VfB Stuttgart 3 Hamburg SV 0, 1860 Munich 3 Cologne 0, Borussia Moenchengladbach 0 Kaiserslautern 2, Bayer Leverkusen 2 Hansa Rostock 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Bayer Leverkusen	19	13	3	3	46	24	42
2. Borussia Dortmund	19	13	3	3	33	13	42
3. Kaiserslautern	19	12	2	5	40	25	38
4. Werder Bremen	19	11	3	5	32	21	36
5. Bayern Munich	19	10	4	5	35	16	34
6. Schalke 04	19	9	5	5	28	22	32
7. Hertha Berlin	19	9	5	5	30	25	32
8. TSV 1860 Munich	19	9	3	7	29	30	30
9. VfB Stuttgart	19	7	7	5	23	18	28
10. VfL Wolfsburg	19	7	4	8	33	29	25
11. SC Freiburg	19	5	6	8	24	30	21
12. Hamburg SV	19	5	5	9	25	32	20
13. Hansa Rostock	19	5	4	10	17	27	19
14. Borussia M'bach	19	3	8	8	19	28	17
15. Energie Cottbus	19	4	5	10	17	34	17
16. Cologne	19	3	5	11	11	31	14
17. Nuremberg	19	3	4	12	14	35	13
18. FC St Pauli	19	2	6	11	21	37	12

FRENCH LEAGUE CLUB

PSG, RENNES GO THROUGH

Paris St Germain needed a tense penalty shootout to beat second division Nancy on Sunday and make it through to the semifinals of the French League Cup.

The Parisians, locked at 1-1 after normal time, joined three other top-flight sides - Stade Rennes, Lorient and Girondins Bordeaux - in the last four of the competition.

It was a hard fought match for PSG against the team with the best away record at the Parc des Princes.

Nancy have won eight times at PSG in the past and they came very close to a ninth win before bowing out 4-3 on penalties. Although PSG hit the post four times in a one-sided contest they failed to wrap up the tie in normal time due their lack of touch in front of goal.

Nancy opened the scoring in the 12th minute thanks to a perfect free kick from defender Nicolas Florentin, but former Newcastle United defender Didier Domi equalised from close range on the half hour. Two players from each side missed their penalties in a tense shootout before Argentine Mauricio Pochettino scored the winner. Lowly Lorient also had to wait for extra time to beat 10-man Bastia on penalties.

The Corsicans, one goal down after Pascal Feindouno scored just before the break, equalised in the 58th minute thanks to a Bernard Lambourde header. Bastia defender Morlaye Soumah was sent off in the 73rd minute and they twice hit the post during the penalty shootout before losing 4-2. Struggling Stade Rennes earned a consolation victory over second division leaders Racing Strasbourg, winning 3-2 at home.

Rennes, bottom of the first division, owed their victory to a controversial penalty converted by Christophe Leroux 11 minutes from the end. The referee awarded the spot kick after a tackle from Strasbourg's Stephane Collet which looked perfectly valid on television. Brazilian Lucas scored the winner for Rennes in the 86th minute with a superb volley.

Rennes had been forced to fight an uphill battle after Strasbourg led 2-1 thanks to second-half goals from Stephane Roda and Yugoslav Danijel Ljuboja, both coming from well-worked counter-attacks. On Saturday, Girondins Bordeaux beat Monaco 2-1 with Brazilian Eduardo Costa and Portuguese Pauleta scoring in each half. The principality team will hope to gain revenge when they face Girondins at home in a first division clash on Wednesday. Troyes keep climbing. Meanwhile in the Championnat, Troyes moved up to sixth place in the table after a Nicolas Gousse goal at the start of the second half was enough to see off Marseille.



Rennes' Olivier Monterrubio gets the ball ahead of Strasbourg's Christian Bassila.

QUARTER FINAL RESULTS

Stade Rennes 3 Strasbourg (II) 2
Lorient 1 Bastia 1 (Lorient win 4-2 on penalties)
Paris St Germain 1 Nancy (II) 1 (PSG win 4-3 on penalties)
Girondins Bordeaux 2 Monaco 1

WORLD LEAGUES

TURKISH SUPER CUP

Denizlispor 5 Gaziantepspor 2, Samsunspor 1 Goztepe 2, Malatyaspor 2 Kocaelispor 1, Diyarbakirspor 0 Besiktas 0, Istanbulspor 0 Gencerbirligi 0, Galatasaray 4 Rizespor 1, Bursaspor 2 Trabzonspor 2, Yozgatspor 3 Antalyaspor 2, Ankaragucu 3 Fenerbahce 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Galatasaray	20	14	4	2	53	25	46
2. Besiktas	20	13	4	3	52	24	43
3. Fenerbahce	20	12	1	7	40	23	37
4. Ankaragucu	20	10	3	7	46	34	33
5. Gaziantepspor	20	9	4	7	32	28	31
6. Istanbulspor	20	9	4	7	19	19	31
7. Kocaelispor	20	8	4	8	27	31	28
8. Bursaspor	20	8	4	8	25	30	28
9. Goztepe	20	7	6	7	18	32	27
10. Trabzonspor	20	7	5	8	32	33	26
11. Denizlispor	20	6	7	7	37	28	25
12. Gencerbirligi	20	5	7	8	28	35	22
13. Diyarbakirspor	20	6	4	10	30	38	22
14. Samsunspor	20	6	3	11	18	30	21
15. Malatyaspor	20	7	0	13	22	39	21
16. Rizespor	20	4	8	8	23	29	20
17. Yozgatspor	20	5	5	10	28	36	20
18. Antalyaspor	20	5	5	10	28	44	20

GREEK FIRST DIVISION

Panathinaikos 1 Ethnikos Astir 0, OFI 0 Xanthi 1, Panahaiki Patras 0 Ionikos 2, Panionios 0 Iraklis 1, PAOK 3 AEK 2, Olympiakos 0 Aris 1, Akrotiris 0 Aigaleo 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Olympiakos	13	8	4	1	33	15	28
2. AEK Athens	13	9	0	4	31	16	27
3. PAOK	13	7	4	2	25	19	25
4. Panathinaikos	13	7	3	3	28	14	24
5. Xanthi	13	6	4	3	19	13	22
6. Iraklis	13	5	5	3	16	16	20
7. Aris	13	5	5	3	15	13	20
8. OFI	13	5	3	5	15	14	18
9. Panionios	13	4	4	5	16	21	16
10. Ethnikos Astir	13	3	3	7	10	17	12
11. Ionikos	13	2	5	6	11	22	11
12. Aigaleo	13	2	3	8	14	27	9
13. Akrotiris	13	2	3	8	13	19	9
14. Panahaiki	13	1	4	8	12	32	7

S. AFRICAN FIRST DIVISION

Free State Stars 4 AmaZulu 1, Sundowns 2 Black Leopards 1, Classic 1 Santos 3, Hellenic 0 Jomo Cosmos 1, Moroka Swallows 0 SuperSport Utd 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
1. Santos	21	11	7	3	29	17	40
2. Moroka Swallows	21	11	6	4	26	16	39
3. SuperSport Utd	20	11	4	5	25	21	37
4. Orlando Pirates	19	9	7	3	22	13	34
5. Manning Rangers	20	9	4	7	34	24	31
6. Black Leopards	20	8	7	5	35	26	31
7. Jomo Cosmos	19	8	4	7	20	17	28
8. Free State Stars	21	7	6	8	22	19	27
9. Ajax Cape Town	19	7	5	7	17	15	26
10. Wits University	21	6	8	7	20	20	26
11. Kaizer Chiefs	18	7	5	6	21	22	26
12. Bush Bucks	20	7	4	9	22	25	25
13. Sundowns	15	6	6	3	15	11	24
14. Golden Arrows	20	5	9	6	21	22	24
15. Ria Stars	20	4	7	9	21	28	19
16. AmaZulu	22	2	9	11	13	30	15
17. Hellenic	20	3	6	11	12	30	15
18. Classic	22	1	10	11	17	36	13

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

After Round 16

After Round 16	TOTAL								PTS	HOME								AWAY							
	P	W	D	L	Bye	F	A	P		W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A					
PERTH GLORY	15	11	3	1	1	35	14	36	8	6	2	0	17	6	7	5	1	1	18	8					
BRISBANE STRIKERS	15	7	4	3	2	22	16	25	7	3	2	2	9	7	7	4	4	1	13	9					
NEWCASTLE UNITED	15	6	7	2	1	19	14	25	7	4	3	0	9	3	8	2	4	2	10	11					
OLYMPIC SHARKS	14	7	2	5	2	19	12	23	7	4	2	1	9	3	7	3	0	4	10	7					
NORTHERN SPIRIT	15	6	4	5	1	21	22	19	8	3	1	4	8	13	8	3	3	1	13	9					
PARRAMATTA POWER	15	6	3	6	1	17	16	19	8	4	1	3	11	9	7	2	2	3	6	7					
MARCONI STALLIONS	15	5	4	6	1	16	18	19	7	3	2	2	10	9	8	2	2	4	6	9					
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	15	6	1	8	1	22	23	18	7	4	1	3	10	11	7	2	0	5	10	14					
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	15	4	5	6	1	16	23	16	6	2	0	4	5	9	9	2	3	4	10	14					
SYDNEY UNITED	15	4	3	8	1	15	24	14	8	1	3	4	9	16	7	4	0	3	6	6					
ADELAIDE CITY	14	3	5	6	2	19	20	14	7	3	3	1	15	9	7	0	2	5	4	11					
SOUTH MELBOURNE	15	3	5	7	1	11	16	13	10	3	2	5	9	12	5	0	3	2	2	4					
KINGZ FC	15	3	4	8	1	22	34	10	7	3	2	3	10	15	8	0	2	6	12	21					

KINGZ FC

(P Urlovic 41)

MARCONI STALLIONS

Venue: North Harbour Stadium. Crowd: 3,070. Referee: P. Green.
Cautions: P Urlovic (KFC) 67', S Webb (MS) 45', C Care (MS) 65',
C Gibson (MS) 67', J Maisano (MS) 75'

Teams: **KINGZ FC:** Theoklitos (Bannatyne 26), Perry, Goutzioulis, Urlovic, Vlahos, Ngata (Campbell 90), Markovski, Hooker, Banks, Jackson, Douglas (Burton 79).

MARCONI STALLIONS: Turnbull, Beauchamp, Costanzo, Longo, Care, Renaud, Maisano, Tome (Brownlie 68), Webb (Radulovic 72), Brosque, Gibson.

NORTHERN SPIRIT

(J Watts 30)

ADELAIDE CITY FORCE

Venue: North Sydney Oval. Crowd: 2,852. Referee: M. Shield.
Cautions: S Thomas (NS) 59'

Teams: **NORTHERN SPIRIT:** Henderson, Watts, Bell, Spencer, Thomas (Griffiths 71), McDermott, Foster, Cervinski (Burgess 84), Cardozo, Hutchinson, Cartwright.

ADELAIDE CITY FORCE: Godley, Kemp, Fyfe, Kovacevic, Pantelis (M Karlovic 71), Veart, Vidmar, Moreira (Saric 64), Tunbridge, Rees, Goulding.

PARRAMATTA POWER

(D Barrett 57, B Holman 83)

NEWCASTLE UNITED

Venue: Parramatta Stadium. Crowd: 4,176. Referee: C. Diomis.
Cautions: N Orlic (PP) 55', E Masi (NU) 85'

Teams: **PARRAMATTA POWER:** Pogliacomi, Barrett, Orlic, Tobin, O'Sullivan, Thompson (Brown 92), Arambasic (Holman 60), Elrich, Eagleton, Kwasnik (Buonavoglia 73), Bennett.

NEWCASTLE UNITED: Beltrame, Prentice, Roberts, Bingley, Dodd, Wilson (Tsekenis 79), Griffiths, McBreen, Baillie (Surjan 79), Blagojevic, Johnson (Masi 71).

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

(T Da Costa 70)

OLYMPIC SHARKS

(T Pondeljak 8, A Juric 84)

Venue: Knights Stadium. Crowd: 3,675. Referee: S. Micallef.
Cautions: S Ognjenovski (MK) 27', P Kohler (OS) 30', T Halpin (OS) 75', H Ishida (OS) 82'

Teams: **MELBOURNE KNIGHTS:** John, R Vargas, Ognjenovski, Marth, Vasilevski, Marusic (A Vargas 79), Porter, Da Costa, Jolic, Piorkowski, De Jesus.

OLYMPIC SHARKS: Bolton, Laybutt, Kohler, Srhoj (Zorbas 57), Wilson, Pondeljak, Halpin (Macallister 81), North, Packer (Ishida 75), Durante, Juric.

PERTH GLORY

(B Maloney 44)

WOLLONGONG WOLVES

(S Young 60)

Venue: Perth Oval. Crowd: 13,652. Referee: A. Nardi.
Cautions: A Ceccoli (WW) 25', D Mennillo (WW) 72'
Red Cards: S. Miller (PG) 19'

Teams: **PERTH GLORY:** Petkovic, Horsley, Harnwell, Deans, Miller, Maloney (Edwards 88), Despotovski, Hassell (Naven 90), Junior, Mori, Pryce.

WOLLONGONG WOLVES: Anastasiadis, Ceccoli, Stanton, Cervinski (Young 46), Castro, Reid (Wells 82), Sekulovski, Anthopoulos (Souris 61), Blake, Mennillo, Sharland.

SYDNEY UNITED

(P Bilokapic 60, A Deur 77)

SOUTH MELBOURNE

(C Boutsianis 66, 90)

Venue: Sydney United SC. Crowd: 3,350. Referee: B. Hugo.
Cautions: G Mendez (SU) 82', Arrarte (SU) 90', Trimboli (SM) 76'

Teams: **SYDNEY UNITED:** Knezevic, Olic, Arrarte, Cunico, Mendez (Jedinak 86), Milicic, Talevski (Deur 65), Bilokapic, Sinozic, Zelic, Cevenini (Kopic 46).

SOUTH MELBOURNE: Petkovic, Iosifidis (Sekulovski 75), De Amicis (Lia 82), Durakovic, Panopoulos, Buljan (Trimboli 67), Bacak, Tolios, Murdocca, Kisinorbo, Boutsianis.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Con Boutsianis: The returnee-South Melbourne striker broke Sydney United hearts with two brilliant goals.

LEADING GOALSCORERS

Name	Club	Total
DAMIAN MORI	Perth Glory	12
DESPOTOVSKI Bobby	Perth Glory	10
FOSTER Paul	Brisbane Strikers	9
MILICIC Ante	Sydney United	8
URLOVIC Paul	Kingz FC	8
CARDOZO Pablo	Northern Spirit	7
DA COSTA Toto	Melbourne Knights	7
GRIFFITHS Joel	Newcastle United	6
RECH Fernando	Brisbane Strikers	6
TUNBRIDGE Scott	Adelaide City Force	6

ROUND 17

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 1

Wollongong Wolves vs Newcastle United
Adelaide City vs Parramatta Power

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 2

Olympic Sharks vs Northern Spirit
Brisbane Strikers vs Melbourne Knights
Marconi Stallions vs Sydney United
Perth Glory vs Kingz FC
South Melbourne vs Bye

BYE - BRISBANE STRIKERS